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Arab-Israeli Talks

Meeting Between Peres, Sha'th in Athens Reported

NC0209204393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2009 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Official Palestinian sources in Cairo have disclosed that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, in Athens last night. The purpose of the meeting was to hold further consultations over the "Gaza-Jericho First" option and the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

The meeting was held during a stopover that Peres made in Athens on his way from Brussels to Paris. [sentence as received]

It should be noted that Peres' consultations with EC officials in Brussels focused on the need to back the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and extend economic aid to a development plan in Gaza and Jericho.

Israeli Sources Deny Meeting

TA0209164393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has prolonged his visit to Europe. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports he has left for Paris, where he will meet the French president and foreign minister tomorrow. President Mitterrand will put a special plane at Peres' disposal that will return him to Israel before the Sabbath. Our correspondent notes that this change of schedule raised rumors regarding a meeting with a Palestinian leader.

Sources in Peres' entourage denied reports according to which Mr. Peres met with Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser, in Athens this morning.

In their talks with Mr. Peres, the heads of the EC said they would recommend facilitating the negotiations with Israel on amending its agreements with the EC. They would also act to direct aid to the territories and provide guarantees for investments in the territories and in Israel. In a joint news conference, European Commission President Jacques Delors noted the breakthrough in the peace process and praised the courage and vision of those who brought it about.

Referring to the expected PLO statement on recognition of Israel, Foreign Minister Peres said its content is clear to the sides, and Israel hopes it will be issued as soon as possible.

Sha'th on Israeli, PLO Contacts

JN0309085593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Recorded interview with Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Rosette Hakim in Washington on 2 September; carried within the "This Morning" feature]

[Text] [Hakim] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, welcome to our program

[Sha'th] Thank you.

[Hakim] There are secret contacts, which are becoming public now, between Israel and the PLO. The question is: What role do you play in these contacts?

[Sha'th] Numerous contacts, in fact, have taken place in the past five years. The principal official in charge of these contacts has always been brother Abu-Mazin, Mahmud 'Abbas. I have worked with him throughout this period to create and to develop these contacts. I have contributed in that regard, but I was not part of the latest channel to Oslo. I knew about it, but it was carried out by other brothers. They are the ones to thank for the success in achieving this agreement.

[Hakim] You are the middleman between the PLO and the Palestinian delegation. Did you explain to the delegation what happened in Oslo?

[Sha'th] Yes, I am the PLO's official in charge of supervising the delegation. I am the chairman of the delegation's Steering Committee and have been since the start of the negotiations. So I have a dual role. I have a role within the PLO leadership and the political action undertaken outside of the framework of this delegation, and I have a role within the delegation itself, namely, the role that I have been playing since the start of the negotiations. This is a good delegation composed of highly qualified people, people who have played a very important role. In the end, the results achieved by the Palestinian negotiator in Oslo were based on the intensive work done by the delegation here in Washington over a period of 22 months of negotiations with the Israeli delegation.

[Hakim] But you are aware that there is great dismay in the territories, in the West Bank and Gaza, and within the delegation and among the Arab states involved in the peace process. Why have you not informed the Arab states, particularly Jordan—either its government or its delegation—of what has happened between Israel and the PLO?

[Sha'th] In fact, it is not that we did not wish to tell our brothers in Jordan or to conceal any information from our delegation or people. Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, encouraged the concealment of certain secrets. One may need to keep secrets at times to reach agreement, and when one reaches an agreement, he has to tell all the parties

concerned before ratifying it. We go through two phases: first, making the agreement, and then endorsing and ratifying the agreement. Making the agreement must remain secret in order to protect it and to achieve a result. This has been achieved. Now that this has been achieved, we have informed the brother members of the delegation, as well as our brothers in Jordan and the other Arab delegations. We also are informing our people, and we are doing so very frankly, in order to be able to endorse this decision in the PLO Executive Council and the PLO Central Council, which acts as the Palestinian people's parliament, and in order to gain the highest degree of conviction and support from our people both within and outside of the occupied territories. This is the basic principle that will make this agreement a successful one. We say this because we are fully convinced that the more our people know about this agreement, the more they will support it, despite the fact that it is a phased one and not the final agreement for peace.

[Hakim] Dr. Sha'th, can you share with our listeners, particularly those in the West Bank and Gaza, some of the details of the contacts currently under way to achieve a mutual recognition or the signing of the agreement?

[Sha'th] The most important feature of this agreement, as far as our Palestinian people are concerned, is the fact that this agreement contains a detailed timetable for Israeli troop withdrawal, not only from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but also from all towns in the West Bank, to other areas outside of these towns which will be agreed upon. So, we have an important element here; namely, withdrawal. We also have another important element: the start of the return of those refugees who left in and after 1967. The third important element is a political one, an element making the PLO directly responsible for the negotiations at a later stage, including the final negotiations. The PLO also will be responsible for establishing the institutions that will begin assuming power in the occupied territories. Therefore, recognition of the PLO is an important thing indeed. The current negotiations now seek to achieve a formula by which mutual recognition will be achieved and, consequently, the recognition of the PLO. This recognition will enable it to shoulder its role in the future.

[Hakim] How long do you think that will take? The [Fatah] Central Committee will meet today, I believe, and other meetings are expected. How much time will the PLO need to solve this procedural problem?

[Sha'th] The first part, in fact, is not procedural. The first part, the recognition of the PLO, is very important because it places the PLO in a position of responsibility in terms of implementing this agreement and reaching final agreements. This is not a procedural matter. The procedural matter concerns the papers that will be announced. The real thing, however, is the PLO's assumption of its role and responsibilities. After that, I believe that it will take a few weeks to obtain the Palestinian people's endorsement through their democratic institutions. We are talking about days and weeks, not months or years.

[Hakim] But will the recognition of Israel come easily, or do you think that there will be certain complications arising from other organizations and from inside Fatah?

[Sha'th] Mutual recognition is a matter dictated by the nature of the peace process in which we are involved. We have now entered an important phase in history. We want to change the old hostility and the conflict that have continued for several, long years into a lasting and just peace. This requires a change in the nature of relations between the two parties, a change from an occupation authority and a people under occupation to, in the end, two neighboring states and a genuine peace based on good neighborliness. This requires a change, which must be advantageous to our people as part of the benefits they will gain when this agreement is implemented. As I have said, this is not a final agreement, nor is it the end of the road. It is the beginning of the end of the conflict and the beginning of the road toward a genuine and just peace.

[Hakim] We are approximately 10 minutes into this interview, and we still do not understood when the Israeli-Palestinian agreement will be signed.

[Sha'th] This matter does not concern us alone; it concerns two parties. If the formula leading to the recognition of the PLO on the basis of mutual recognition, about which we have already talked, is reached, then that recognition can be made tomorrow or the day after. The problem is still in the language. If we can overcome this problem, then it can be made in two or three days. However, it can take longer. The matter does not depend on us alone; there is another party. As for obtaining approval within the constitutional frameworks of the Palestinian people, this will require two or three weeks at the most. When that is achieved, we expect the signing to be made within a period not exceeding one month.

[Hakim] So you do not expect the declaration of principles to be signed by the Israeli and Palestinian delegations during the current round of talks?

[Sha'th] This is possible. But, with the passage of hours and days, I feel that it is getting less likely. I do not rule it out. If all of these matters are settled quickly, then it is possible. But to be precise and realistic, I say that even if we are unable to sign it during this round, we still have room for a special signing ceremony unconnected with any round of talks. It can happen when agreement is reached.

[Hakim] Is this due to the fact that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is refusing to sign it?

[Sha'th] It is not a question of Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi or of any of the individuals here. We are all committed to the decision of the PLO and its constitutional institutions. The matter concerns the future. The future requires an end to the notion that there is a delegation and there is a

PLO. There must be a single party, exactly as is the case with the Syrian delegation, which is subordinate to the Syrian Government, and the Israeli delegation, which is subordinate to the Israeli Government. The Palestinian delegation must be recognized, in public and with the approval of all parties, as the PLO's delegation.

[Hakim] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Further on 'Abd-al-Shafi's Refusal To Sign Accord

JN0209115793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with chief Palestinian delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi in Washington by 'Umar Zaydani in studio, from the "With the Midday Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks: Why can't you sign the agreement reached between Israel and the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is a clear matter that needs no explanation. The negotiating team did not participate in making this agreement. We were not consulted about it. The side that concluded this agreement is the side that is authorized to sign it. This is very clear.

[Zaydani] Does this mean you, again, are criticizing the decisionmaking process inside the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, I am saying that this a clear matter. The side that took this measure and supervised the process is authorized to sign it.

[Zaydani] But, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, yesterday, we heard you saying yesterday, that the document does not meet the minimum level sought by the Palestinians. What do you mean?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As the head of the negotiating delegation, I say that Resolution 242 is our point of reference in these negotiations. Resolution 242 does not authorize us or allow us to approve of Israeli claims to the occupied territory. The agreement before us disregards Israel's continued establishment of settlements in the occupied territory, particularly in Jerusalem. This is not in harmony with the point of reference of the peace process. This is the stand that I am not satisfied with; this is the point of weakness in the agreement.

[Zaydani] But, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in accordance with the agreement between Israel and the PLO, if no mutual recognition is reached, the heads of the delegations in Washington will sign the agreement. You represent the PLO in these talks.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The important thing is that the party that held negotiations with Israel and reached this agreement is the party that should sign it, regardless of the issue of recognition. I do not say, of course, that I am adopting a negative stand vis-a- vis the issue of recognition. Recognizing the PLO is an existing Palestinian demand. I believe official recognition of the PLO will facilitate matters. Therefore, I call for Israel's official recognition of the PLO.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, do you not believe that the agreement between Israel and the PLO is a historic turning point in the Palestine question?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It will become so if Israel ends any claim to the occupied territory. Israel should recognize, in accordance with the point of reference of peace, that it is an occupying force. Resolution 242 says Israel cannot plunder any lands in the occupied territory. Hence, the settlements will become illegal. This is the situation I believe would lead us to peace. I do not want people to say I am a hardliner. I really want to reach a stable and lasting peace.

[Zaydani] The question remains, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, is the current situation in the territories and Gaza any better?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am not satisfied with the current situation in Gaza. However, I do not know if this agreement will lead us to a better situation. I am not sure of this. However, regardless of the possibilities, we are supposed to work in harmony with the reference of peace, with law, and with justice.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, recently you have not been satisfied with PLO decisions or the agreement that was reached. Meanwhile, you continue your task as the head of the Palestinian delegation.

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, in this stage, after this agreement, the peace process which began in Madrid has stopped, because something new has taken place, that is, an agreement between the PLO and Israel. I hope, from all my heart, that this would lead to a just and durable peace. But, I have my own doubts about whether this agreement will achieve what we demand in terms of a just and durable peace.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Jordan's al-Tarawinah: PLO Kept Arabs 'in the Dark'

NC0209120293 Paris AFP in English 0818 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, Sept 2 (AFP)—The Palestinians, at the request of their Arab colleagues, revealed the details of the secret Israeli-PLO draft agreement on Palestinian self-rule to allay fears of how it might affect the Middle East peace process.

Top coordinator for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Nabil Sha'th explained the ins and outs of the accord to the Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian delegations in an agitated three-hour meeting here late Wednesday [1 September].

After the meeting, chief Jordanian delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah implicitly reproached the PLO for keeping the Arabs in the dark on their secret negotiations with Israel that led to the August 20 agreement in Oslo.

The agreement would grant self-rule for Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step toward full Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. It is expected to be signed at the 11th round of bilateral peace talks that began here Tuesday.

Al-Tarawinah blamed the lack of coordination not on the Arab delegations attending the talks, but on their superiors.

"The delegates at the bilateral talks were kept in the dark on (Israeli-PLO) developments as much as the Arab governments themselves," he told AFP.

The Palestinian representatives told their colleagues that they had no advance knowledge of the secret negotiations between PLO and Israeli officials in Europe.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is currently visiting Arab capitals to defend his separate agreement with Israel.

Jordan's top negotiator had no quibble with a separate agreement. "We had always pleaded for progress on the Palestinian issue, but we were not asking for a surprise."

In al-Tarawinah's view, Sha'th did not go far enough in explaining the "Gaza-Jericho First" deal.

"There are still many details to clear up and negotiate: how the accord will affect Jordan, especially its security and sovereignty, and the matter of bridge control on the Jordan River," he added.

"To reach a common position on the accord, the Arabs must see things clearer. Many issues are being left unanswered," al-Tarawinah said.

The Arabs are committed on the road to peace, he said, adding that "the rules of negotiation laid down in Madrid (October 1991) are not sacrosanct."

The Jordanian official said that if direct participation by the PLO could benefit the peace process, "then so much the better."

"At the close of bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, we normally hold coordinating sessions, but the one we had on Wednesday was especially important because of the (Israeli-PLO) agreement," said Jordanian delegation spokesman Marwan Mu'ashshar.

A source close to the talks did not hide "the Arabs' irritation over the secret Palestinian-Israeli move, since they had laid their cards on the table in an effort to promote harmony."

Syria and Jordan expressed "surprise" over the agreement, while Lebanon called it "a violation of Arab coordination."

According to the negotiating rules established at the start of the peace process, the Arab goal is global peace in the Middle East, which rules out separate agreements with Israel.

The current round of bilateral peace talks held at the U.S. State Department will conclude September 14.

Says 'No Definite Position' on Plan

JN0309062593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, said Jordan was not against progress in only one track in the Middle East peace talks, but stressed that coordination was important among all the Arab delegations. Dr. al-Tarawinah told CNN that there were many related issues that should be coordinated in order to produce balanced progress on all tracks at the peace talks. He said Jordan could not give a definite position on the Israeli-PLO agreement until all the details were covered.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] Well, as you know, we only recently learned about this. We had been joining the Palestinians for the 10 rounds of the bilateral talks here in Washington in what is called the joint delegation. And to our surprise, really, we learned about the text that was published two days ago. And we still think that the Palestinians and the Israelis took quite a long period of time, maybe months, to reach this. So, there are many details. We have to really look into the matter and look into the details. So, I would say that we are still in the position of looking into it, into the details, and yet there is no definite position on that. [end recording]

Al-'Allaf: Discussion of Withdrawal Article Begins

JN0309055393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that discussion of the fifth article, the basic article in the draft declaration of principles on peace pertaining to Israeli withdrawal, began yesterday. He added that the discussion of this article will continue when the current round resumes on Tuesday [7 September].

Responding to questions from journalists, al-'Allaf said: We have completed our discussion of the first four articles and have begun discussing the fifth article. We have almost finished looking at the introduction to that article, and we will continue discussion of the basic issues related to the article on Tuesday.

Al-'Allaf stated: One cannot judge that progress has been achieved on the basis of the articles already discussed. What is important is to reach agreement on the substantive issues contained in article five, which was the subject of discussion yesterday.

Al-'Allaf said: We hope that our reading of this article and the paragraphs associated with it will be the final reading this time. We also hope that agreement can be reached on these substantive issues since this is the only way to reach agreement in general and to guarantee progress.

Al-'Allaf noted that the Israeli position had prevented any progress in the talks in the past due to Israel's noncompliance with complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He expressed the hope that some change had occurred in the Israeli position during this round.

Al-'Allaf asserted that Israel must now realize, some two years after the start of the peace process, that if we are to be able to establish peace, then it is impermissible to waste any more time without full commitment to complete withdrawal.

Shammas Notes Effort To Bridge Israeli-Lebanese Gap

NC0309060793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Discussing the Lebanese-Israeli track, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, said the gap between the two delegations' positions remains wide. He said serious attempts were made to bridge the gap and noted that the negotiations were characterized by seriousness and depth. He said he hoped the peace effort will pan out, because Lebanon wants the peace conference to succeed.

Sees 'New Ideas' Ahead

NC0309064893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] At the end of the meeting between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Washington yesterday, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said the head of the Israeli team stressed that he submitted a proposal to Lebanon to study two months ago. He stated that the head of the Israeli delegation seems to forget that the negotiations resumed on Tuesday and that the questions put to them on their working paper and views were also essential. He gave us a response that reflected what we consider to be the basic Israeli position. We will continue to debate that paper to see whether it provides a compromise; they should convince us of this.

Shammas said there was Israeli talk that the Israeli paper emphasizes Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. He said the best expression of this position can be achieved through Israeli commitment to total withdrawal from our occupied land. This would be the beginning of a serious breakthrough on the Lebanese-Israeli track. We must continue our negotiations and propose new ideas to each other; I believe we will do so this Tuesday.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reportedly Not To Sign Accord Before Arab Approval

JN0309103393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] In a statement to the Emirian newspaper AL-KHALIJ, published today, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas said that the PLO will not sign the self-rule agreement with Israel before mutual recognition and Arab approval of the agreement are achieved. This is the first time that the PLO has linked the signing of the agreement with Israel with Arab approval.

'Arafat Discusses Agreement, Returns to Jericho

NC0309080293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0716 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] London, 3 Sep (MENA)-Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said he will return to Jericho, in the West Bank, soon after the Palestinian security forces arrive from abroad in the areas covered by the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on Gaza and Jericho. In a statement to the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said the agreement will start to be implemented in the next few months and includes holy Jerusalem.

'Arafat said the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is considered to implement the Palestine National Council's resolution of 1974 providing for establishing a national Palestinian authority on any part of Palestinian soil from which Israel withdraws. He noted that there will be a prompt Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in the next few months. As for the rest of the occupied land, autonomy arrangements will apply and the final phase of a solution will begin at the start of the third year after implementing the agreement. Concluding his statement, 'Arafat asserted that the establishment of a Palestinian state is close.

PLO's 'Abbas: Fears About Agreement Not Justified

NC0209204493 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas in Tunis by MBC anchorwoman Fatimah Benhuhu "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Benhuhu] Can you comment on fears that the Gaza-Jericho accord might be the end of the road regarding a solution to the Palestinian problem?

['Abbas] First, the question is wrong because the agreed declaration of principles does not cover Gaza and Jericho alone, it covers the West Bank and Gaza. It deals with the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, geographical jurisdiction, elections, the transfer of power, the settling of disputes, arbitration, and other issues covered in 16 articles, one of which deals with Gaza and Jericho.

What is most important in this declaration is that it links the transitional and final phases in terms of time and substance. Negotiations on the final phase and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 will be held two years later. Therefore, we see no justification for such fears.

[Benhuhu] How is this connected with an agreement covering the rest of the West Bank?

['Abbas] The transitional phase deals with the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and the transfer of power to the Palestinians in these two areas, while the Israeli forces will be redeployed and the gradual transfer of powers will begin immediately in the rest of the West Bank. Within nine months after ratifying [tasdiq] the accord, elections will be held for the Palestinian council, which will assume power in all these areas. In other words, the West Bank and Gaza will be one single area after the elections in terms of the transitional Palestinian authority.

[Benhuhu] Do you view this agreement as a step toward an independent Palestinian state?

['Abbas] Frankly, we are not hiding our intentions or concealing our objectives. Yes, we wish to attain an independent Palestinian state. When we examine the agreement, we find a phrase appearing in the introduction that speaks of the recognition of the two parties' legitimate political rights. The phrase also appears in the third article that states that the elections constitute an important introductory and transitional step in the process of attaining the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and just needs. We understand this phrase as stating that we have the right to attain an independent state, and, after we have established such a state, we will also have the right to establish a confederation with our Jordanian brothers.

[Benhuhu] Among the criticisms leveled at the Palestinian leadership is that it agreed to leave basic and essential issues—such as Jerusalem, the building of settlements, borders, and the right of return—until the negotiations on the final stage? Don't you agree that this involves very serious concessions.

['Abbas] We must understand that when we agreed to go to Madrid, we knew in advance that there was going to be two stages: a transitional period and a final stage. We also knew that certain issues had inevitably to be postponed to the final stage including the fate of Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, and the borders. We placed these issues on record in the declaration of principles as issues that will be discussed two years after the implementation of the transitional rule.

[Benhuhu] Recent reports indicate that the PLO seeks a simultaneous signing of peace accords between all Arab sides and Israel. What do you think?

['Abbas] We agree because we have been committed to this through the five-way meetings [reference to meetings of Arab cordon states' foreign ministers], which were and are still being held between us and our brothers who are committed to the peace process, in addition to Egypt.

[Benhuhu] Will you sign on behalf of the Palestinians?

['Abbas] The one who will sign is the PLO, if a mutual recognition is agreed to.

Abu-Sharif: 'No Concessions on National Rights'

LD0209221293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with PLO adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif in Tunis by correspondent Ahmed Brahim; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Brahim] According to reports circulating at present, Yasir 'Arafat will go to Jericho to establish the headquarters of the Palestinian leadership, after the agreement is signed. How true is this hypothesis, and when will this happen?

[Abu-Sharif] This matter has not been discussed at all. The agreement is a first step, which undoubtedly has its positive points. However, this step requires a lot of discussion, detailed discussion. It also needs to be connected to the overall agenda of an Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian territories and to the Palestinian people's attainment of their full political rights, chiefly their right to self-determination and national independence.

¡Brahim] Some Palestinian sides are opposed to this agreement. Their stand is based on the fact that this agreement did not take into account the principle of land for peace in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. What do you say to that?

[Abu-Sharif] There is indeed opposition, but I believe that the arguments attributed to them [as heard] are not at all relevant because the Palestine Liberation Organization, with President Yasir 'Arafat at its head, is committed to the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. There will be no concessions on these national rights. Our objective is complete, national independence, and full sovereignty to the Palestinian people on their soil. This agreement, as I have said, is the first step on a stage by stage process and it should constitute, upon its implementation, a kind of test and experiment. The final implementation of Resolution 242 is the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from our Palestinian land and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their national independence.

[Brahim] According to information available here, there are Palestinian-Israeli committees to be formed in accordance with this agreement. What are these committees and what are the issues they are to be entrusted with?

[Abu-Sharif] So far, as I have told you, details have not been discussed. Our delegation to the peace negotiations is now in Washington. It is expected to discuss many details. The issue is not an easy one, but a difficult one. We have a long struggle ahead of us despite the fact that this step is a positive one.

[Brahim] Are there, on the PLO agenda, other rounds of negotiations planned between the Israelis and the PLO?

[Abu-Sharif] Israel has to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians, because the signing of this agreement must be with the PLO. I would like to say here that the PLO is coordinating with the Arab brothers who are taking part in the peace process, namely Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, so that there will be a unified Arab stand to face up to Israel for the implementation of Resolution 242, and to reach a comprehensive settlement.

[Brahim] There are some Arab countries that have been surprised by this agreement. Did this agreement take place away from the Arab-Palestinian coordination?

[Abu-Sharif] There were direct negotiations in the first phase with our delegation to the peace talks. However, during the Beirut meeting, Brother Abu-al-Lutf informed his brothers, the foreign ministers, about this. They agreed on a unified stand for the next round of negotiations.

PNC Official on Obstacles to Recognition of Israel

NC0309095093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has said there are obstacles to the announcement of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. The obstacles relate to articles in the Palestine national charter, he added.

In an exclusive statement to MENA today, Subayh said the charter was drafted in 1964, when Israel believed there was no such thing as the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the Palestinian charter reflected the political atmosphere at the time.

Subayh said the PLO developed the charter and added resolutions to it, such as the one concerning the democratic State of Palestine, in which everyone would be equal in terms of rights and duties. He noted that the first reference to the recognition of Israel came in 1974, when the PNC mentioned establishing a national Palestinian authority on any part of Palestine from which Israel withdraws. This, he added, was followed by the 1988 PNC resolutions, which accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and mentioned two states, a Palestinian state and a Jewish state. Yasir 'Arafat recognized Israel in his address to the United Nations in Geneva in 1989, he said. Subayh added: We view the secret negotiations held between the PLO and Israel as a "factual recognition." He pointed out that this month, an agreement between Israel and the PLO will be signed in the presence of international witnesses, namely, the United States and Russia, adding that this will be a "legal recognition" by both the PLO and Israel.

Subayh noted that these accumulations [tarakumat] make changes to the Palestinian national charter. He said: We are at a new stage, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat earlier declared the national charter null. With these changes, he said, there will be a new chapter in our dealings. He added: Anyone who wants to go back must look at the charter of the Likud, which could assume office in Israel at any time. This charter does not recognize the existence of the Palestinian people and wants a state of Israel according to the "Biblical version," that is, "Greater Israel," a view adopted by a strong current in Israel. He said: We must set the complications aside and go forward so that the march toward peace can proceed normally, without encountering any new obstacles.

Palestine Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal emphasized that intensive Egyptian efforts are under way to surmount the problems obstructing the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and the United States' recognition of the PLO. He noted that these problems may be overcome next week. The Palestinian ambassador told MENA that the Fatah Central Committee held a very important meeting last night in Tunis to study the Palestinian-Israeli agreement of principles. Kamal said the agreement had not occurred in a vacuum, but had resulted from discussions, decisions, and positions adopted by the Fatah Central Committee, which were binding on all Palestinian negotiators, in Washington and elsewhere.

On a possible Palestinian-Syrian summit, Kamal said that during a high-level Egyptian-Syrian contact, President al-Asad welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus.

According to Palestinian sources in Cairo, the absence of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO is not expected to stop the signing of the joint Declaration of Principles by the Palestinian and Israeli parties. The same sources emphasized that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in Washington are authorized to sign the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, but a mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO would upgrade the level of the signatories. The same sources hinted that Faysal al-Husayni, chief of the Palestinian delegations, will sign the joint Declaration of Principles for the Palestinian side if no mutual recognition is announced first.

'Arafat Chairs Fatah Central Committee Meeting

LD0309074693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The meetings of the Fatah Central Committee, the largest of the PLO factions, started last night in Tunis under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and with the participation of the majority of the committee's 18 members.

It has been learned from Palestinian sources that the committee will, during its meetings, discuss the recent developments in the Palestinian arena, in particular the draft Palestinian-Israeli agreement in connection with Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories starting from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. [passage omitted]

More Sessions Expected

LD0309075593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The first session of the Fatah Central Committee meetings was concluded at dawn today under the chairmanship of Mr Yasir 'Arafat. Abu-Mahir, one of the participants, told AFP this morning that the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, took place in a calm atmosphere and that the issues on the agenda were discussed with a spirit of responsibility. He said that the Fatah Central Committee will hold two more meetings today.

Editorial Terms Israeli-PLO Agreement a 'Beginning'

T40209155393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Israeli Agreement Is the Beginning, Not the End"]

[Text] It is still premature to issue a hasty verdict on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially since its details have not yet been officially disclosed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Until those details become available, assessing the agreement will remain just speculation that might be inaccurate and might lack total objectivity.

However, there are some clear realities, outside the texts, that can be referred to as established matters that can neither be denied nor ignored. This, without trying to analyze the reasons that led to those realities, or attempting to spell out the goals that this or that party is seeking by the step or steps that it has taken.

On the Israeli side, for example, the agreement epitomizes a big jump over historical taboos reinforced by Israel since 1967 and specifically since 1974. Those taboos were exemplified by rejecting any dialogue with the PLO, because it was considered in the Israeli lexicon to be a "terrorist organization." This taboo remained in effect in the Madrid format, as Israel insisted on negotiating only with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories, even while knowing that it is actually negotiating with the PLO, which always was and is still considered by the delegation to be its legitimate sole representative and leadership and the source of its instructions and directions.

Through the current agreement, Israel abandoned its woes regarding the PLO, negotiated with it, and is on the verge of recognizing it, something which was not expected even in the long term. This had been a Palestinian demand since the time the Arab states and the Palestinians opted for the peace option in the wake of the 1973 October War.

It is certain that in return there will be a Palestinian concession relating to the National Charter and the possibility of amending or abolishing it. This issue must be put to an open and rational debate. The question that should be answered through this debate is: Will the Palestinian concessions be in the caliber of the agreement's positive points? This, while definitely bearing in mind that the agreement is a beginning on the Palestinian people's road toward gaining their legitimate rights. It is not and will never be the end of the road.

Paper Argues Against 'Emotional Reactions' to Accord

PM0209144193 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Obstacles To A Settlement"]

[Text] All the Palestinian people realize that any agreement with Israel—be it partial or comprehensive—that does not provide for the return of Arab sovereignty to Jerusalem does not contain any real chance for success and continuation. Thus Israel's refusal to discuss the city's status and future continues to represent an element of threat to the region and to any settlement achieved between the Israelis and the Palestinians or between the Israelis and the other Arabs.

None of the Palestinians disagree that the Gaza-Jericho option has never been the Palestinian aspiration for the liberation of the territory and the holy places and the establishment of an independent state on the entire national territory. But this option remains a step—albeit small—in this direction. This is because as long as the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories continues, there will continue to be resistance. And as long as Israeli settlement building continues, there will continue to be a feeling of deception and mistrust.

The Gaza-Jericho option should first be clearly linked to a comprehensive settlement that ends settlement building and restores Arab sovereignty to Jerusalem. It is difficult—indeed impossible—for the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories to accept this option while Jerusalem is closed to its sons and while Israeli spears prevent believers from reaching the al-Aqsa Mosque to pray there.

This stage is the most serious in the Palestinian people's history. What this people are required to do is to

sacrifice some of their hopes and aspirations—even temporarily—and accept the little offered and at the same time remain on trial in the world "goldfish bowl"—that is, the trial of their ability to rule themselves and run their own affairs.

It is not a discovery that Israel is banking on the escalation of inter-Palestinian disagreements and Arab-Palestinian disagreements. It would be its happiest day when it sees the occupied territories have turned into an arena for infighting among the sons of the one cause and the one destiny.

We cannot assume that there are good intentions on the part of Israel and its government, agree with the voices optimistic over peace, and move suddenly from complete enmity to complete friendship. Nor do we believe that hasty Palestinian or Arab reactions to the the Gaza-Jericho agreement can serve public welfare. There must be patience, self-restraint, and movement away from unnecessary emotional reactions.

Any settlement or agreement is a reflection of a regional and international reality. And regrettably, the Arab military option does not exist now after the destruction of Iraq and its military capabilities and the engagement of all the Arab "frontline" states in bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations with Israel in accordance with the Madrid formula and under purely U.S. sponsorship.

When the Arabs were powerful and united, formulas for a settlement were different. They were based on the foundations of international legitimacy. And the Arab Palestinian resistance used to find bases, care, and training from numerous Arab states. But this resistance does not exist at present or is busy with Arab tactics serving the aim of the process and its numerous rounds.

The peoples' history does not stop at an agreement. We see Yugoslavia breaking up, and with it all the known Balkan countries are collapsing. And we see Germany uniting, and as a result, scores of agreements on the collapse of its partition.

What is required is patience and the highest degree of self-restraint. The Arab-Israeli conflict began as a result of aggression, and it will continue as long as this aggression and its subsequent occupation, settlement building, and repression continue.

PFLP Figure: Gaza-Jericho Plan Reinforces Occupation

TA0209143493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Sep 93 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has criticized the Gaza-Jericho First agreement reached by Israel and the PLO.

In a telephone interview with the QUDS PRESS correspondent in Ramallah, Abu-'Ali Mustafa described the agreement as "an attempt to divert discussion from issues under dispute."

Abu-'Ali Mustafa added: What has been agreed on is no more than a reinforcement of the occupation and a division of functions. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ali Mustafa said that this agreement will be a final one for the following reasons:

- The international resolve, which is pressing now for a settlement, will not be the same in three years.
- The Arab position participating now in the settlement process will not be the same three years from now.
- The Palestinian situation, which is continuing to raise its problem on the international level through the intifadah, will be different from the present.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa added: I do not believe that there is a link. Anyone promoting the notion that this step is an opening for other steps by saying that it will lead to a Palestinian state, the right to self-determination, or the right of return, is either misleading or misguided, because the Israelis will try to close the file of the Palestinian problem at the functional division stage.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa affirmed the existence of intense Palestinian political disagreement on various political levels, including the Executive Committee. He added: Six PLO Executive Committee members opposed the Gaza-Jericho option for the reasons I mentioned, since it gives everything to Israel and takes away everything from the Palestinians. Abu-'Ali Mustafa noted that four other Executive Committee members were absent from the meeting that was held to discuss the developments of the peace process. This meeting preceded the announcement on the Israeli-PLO agreement.

Hamas To Continue Struggle in PLO-Controlled Areas

JN0309104293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which is active in the occupied territories, has stressed that it will continue its struggle against Israeli occupation, even in those areas which are to come under PLO control within the self-rule agreement.

Egypt

Ministry Mobilizing Support for Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC0209213093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described Arab reactions to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho as reasonable.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM printed in the Friday [3 September] issue, Musa said that even the criticism leveled at the agreement has been sober and far from acute.

The foreign minister said he contacted his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' to consult over recent regional developments and received two telephone calls from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who wanted to exchange views on these developments. Musa said he briefed them on the results of the recent talks he had held.

In a related development, Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, told AL-AHRAM that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will meet 'Amr Musa early next week to discuss developments on the Palestinian issue.

An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry told AL-AHRAM that Egypt is making contacts with the aim of mobilizing support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the grounds that this agreement can be the prelude for breakthroughs on the other Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks.

The Foreign Ministry source added that these contacts involve Egyptian-Palestinian-Moroccan coordination to secure support for the agreement and achieve progress on all negotiating tracks. This is being done within the context of King Hassan II of Morocco's role as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization's Jerusalem Committee.

The source added that Egypt is also making contacts with the United States and the EC to mobilize full backing for the Palestinians, secure recognition of the PLO, and resume the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

AL-AHRAM reported that four Egyptian-Palestinian joint committees will be formed immediately after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is signed. The committees will discuss issues of mutual interest, notably security and economic issues, which will surface as a result of the signing of the agreement, including Egypt's legal responsibility for Gaza under a UN decision in 1949 placing Gaza under Egyptian administration.

Islamic Militants Condemn 'Arafat as 'Traitor'

NC0209184093 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 2 (AFP)—Dozens of Islamic militants on trial here for membership in an illegal organisation on Thursday [2 September] denounced the PLO-Israeli accord on limited Palestinian autonomy and condemned PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat as a "traitor."

Members of the Tala'i' al-Fath shouted "Death to Arafat" and "Arafat traitor, Israeli Agent", as they appeared before Cairo's High Military Court.

They demanded the return of Jerusalem, which Israel considers its capital and is not mentioned in the accord on autonomy starting in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The fundamentalists also denounced U.S. intervention in Somalia and the lack of international effort to put an end to the killings of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Fifty-four milit , including seven who are on the run, are being tried o. charges of setting up an illegal organisation aimed at overthrowing the Egyptian Government and possession of illegal weapons and explosives.

Six of them are also accused of having killed two people in Cairo in 1990 and of the attempted murder of three policemen that same year.

The trial opened August 15.

Gaza-Jericho Agreement Called 'Good Start'

NC0209132793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq commentary: "Gaza-Jericho Agreement Good Start To Retrieve Palestinian Rights"]

[Text] Whoever believes he can stop the peace snowball formed in Norway from rolling along its peaceful direction in the Middle East is greatly mistaken. Whoever believes the escalation of support and rejection might generate such heat that it decreases the size of the snowball or slows it down is greatly mistaken. Whoever believes he can abort the peace process, forgetting the hopes of the peoples of the region that they might live in peace and end long decades of hatred, war, and violence is greatly mistaken. The facts of life in the countries of the North and the lessons of history everywhere affirm that the small snowball becomes bigger as it keeps moving and stronger with time as it rushes forward or backward. Thus, not long will pass before we see the natural outcome of the talks sponsored by Norway and Belgium, in which Israeli and PLO officials participated in search of peace through a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian issue and mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

The numerous political trends in the Middle East and the various reactions of Arab and non-Arab capitals concerned with Middle East peace are natural issues following the declaration of the agreement reached between the Israeli Government and the PLO on granting the Palestinians self-government authority in the occupied territories. The implementation of this agreement will begin in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The agreement is in and of itself a daring and historic step,

which will trigger several conflicting stances and reactions on the Palestinian, Arab, and Israeli levels.

Peace is the choice of the strong and the course of the wise to change the bitter, wrong situation. We must expect several views, from support to rejection, of the agreement. We must be patient so that these views and interpretations will interact within the framework of a democratic dialogue to arrive at the general interest and a just and comprehensive peace.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat clearly affirmed that the full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area is an inseparable part of the complete arrangements for all the occupied Palestinian areas. He also clearly affirmed that the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement means in practice that the Palestinians are at the beginning of the road and that the PLO has considered the Palestinian people's rights as outlined in the Palestinian peace initiative and the Palestine National Congress resolutions. The final goal is to establish a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land with its capital Jerusalem.

This valiant step deserves to be supported by all the Arab forces so that the Palestinian people can achieve their legitimate rights. It is a good start toward a just and comprehensive peace. We all agree that this step is the beginning of serious and hard work. It is not a final goal in itself, but the start of the difficult road to retrieve the legitimate Arab rights. The Arab national duty dictates that we cooperate on every level to complete the march and achieve our strategic objectives. This is a noble mission requiring us to sacrifice our narrow personal interests for the sake of the supreme Arab goals of the complete liberation of the Arab land and the return of all Palestinian rights.

U.S. Decision To Cut Economic, Military Aid Reported

NC0209214393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that the United States is now in the process of reassessing its relations with the Egyptian regime to be in line with Egypt's political and security role in the coming stage. The same sources noted that Washington has already decided to reduce its economic and military aid to Egypt for the coming years.

The reassessment of relations applies to several other Arab countries, particularly the Gulf states. Washington has decided to increase security and military cooperation with the Gulf states in the future. The sources indicated that the United States is in the process of adopting a new military and security system in the Gulf region that could ensure rapid U.S. deployment should any security threats in the region emerge. The sources explained that the U.S. reassessment process, which is being done within the framework of recharting the U.S. policy in the region in the next two years, gives particular attention to the issues of political stability in Middle Eastern countries and the spread of violence in some of these countries.

U.S. Experts To Investigate Attempt on al-Alfi

NC0209114993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid]

[Text] A senior security source has stated that the Interior Ministry sent a request to summon U.S. experts to conduct a thorough examination of the scene of the assassination attempt against Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and his companions. The source said the U.S. experts offered the Egyptian security agencies their help to unravel the case in accordance with the security cooperation agreement between Cairo and Washington.

The source noted that the experts will examine a sample of the bullet casings found at the scene of the crime and all the evidence sent to the forensic laboratory, including the weapons used by the minister's guards and the security guards at the American University. The source pointed out that the U.S. experts will determine the time the bullets were fired, whether they were fired before or after the explosion, and if they were fired by the minister's guards or the attackers.

In a related issue, the Interior Ministry has earmarked 40 million pounds to modernize the Criminal Evidence Administration, provide it with modern equipment, and train its personnel abroad in techniques to match fingerprints in light of the recent rise in terrorist acts.

Security Team To Ask Pakistan To Extradite Suspects

NC0209111193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Aug 93 p 9

[Text] A high-level security delegation will leave for Pakistan in the next few days to request the extradition of two suspects: Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman Amin and Ayyub 'Abd-al-'Ati Hamid. The two are accused by security agencies of participating in acts of violence inside Egypt, following which they escaped to an Arab country and from there to Pakistan.

The Egyptian security delegation will reportedly carry with it a list of names of 22 others wanted by Egyptian security agencies, details of the charges against them, their role in carrying out acts of violence in Egypt, and their role in planning major operations in the coming months, including the assassination of key political figures inside Egypt.

Fourteen Terrorists Arrested in Aswan 27 Aug

NC0209191393 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by 'Isam al-Sharqawi]

[Excerpt] Security authorities in Aswan arrested 14 terrorists when they tried to take a mosque by force in

Kawm Umbu at dawn yesterday. Aswan's security Director Major General Sami 'Abd-al-Jawad had received a tip-off that a group of al-Jihad organization members intended to storm al-'Amilin Mosque in Kawm Umbu. The extremists were arrested during their attempt to storm the mosque. [passage omitted]

Four Bombs Seized on Train; Smuggler Arrested

NC0209151993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Railway detectives in Suhaj have seized four bombs from a passenger who tried to smuggle them on the train heading for Upper Egypt. The passenger was arrested and the prosecution has opened an investigation. [passage omitted]

Unlicensed Weapons Seized; Suspects Arrested

NC0209191893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Aug 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Asyut detectives have launched a campaign in the governorate's towns and villages to seize unlicensed weapons used by citizens in shooting incidents and terrorist attacks. Some 32 weapons, including 9 pieces of the phantom [al-Shabah] type recently brought into Upper Egypt governorates, were confiscated in (Sahil Salim) and (Bani Humaydan).

The security authorities also arrested a number of suspects and transferred them to the State Security Detectives Department. [passage omitted]

Training Maneuvers by Armed Forces Reported

Joint Air Exercise Held

NC0209212393 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] As part of the Armed Forces major exercise that began two days ago, Air Force units, acting in concert with Air Defense units, have carried out an offensive strike against airports, air bases, and vital targets on various fronts.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and the commanders of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces watched the strike and repulse operations from the Air Defense Forces second-generation command and automatic control centers, which became operational in 1990. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak inaugurated these centers on the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Air Defense Forces.

F-4's, F-16's, and Mirage 2000's participated in the mock strike. They conducted an air battle on the highest possible level of competence. The Air Defense Forces' various detection, warning, and guidance systems and surface-to-air missiles took part in the exercise. All this was directed by the sophisticated command and automatic control centers.

The maneuver demonstrated the officer pilots' skill and accuracy in carrying out their tasks. It also demonstrated the Air Defense Forces' technical know-how, combat capability, and their ability to absorb highly sophisticated weapons technology.

Army Field Exercise Detailed

NC0309100293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0652 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Ismailia, 3 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi today attended the water barrier crossing exercise conducted by the 2d Field Army under heavy and concentrated air bombardment.

The exercise involved troops posing as enemy forces attacking and taking control of a sector. Formations representing our troops crossed a water barrier to engage the enemy, inflict the heaviest possible losses on it, and then destroy it.

According to the scenario, a mechanized infantry unit crosses the water barrier to take up defensive positions east of the barrier. It makes the necessary preparations for destroying sea and air- landing elements under the concentrated application of electronic war equipment and chemical, biological, and incendiary weapons by the enemy.

As a formation crosses the barrier, a bridge is destroyed in an air raid. Repair work takes several hours. The unit commander decides to maintain the crossing process to guarantee the troop flow to the east of the barrier. The commander decides to use the destroyed bridges to ferry vehicles across.

Amphibious armored vehicles cross the barrier under heavy air bombardment, which is confronted by our air and air defense forces. Smokescreens are used to camouflage the troops crossing in rubber boats.

Once across, the formation advances and joins the troops who have already reached the east of the water barrier. Successful combat operations are conducted against the landed enemy troops and heavy losses are inflicted on them.

The exercise involved the different sophisticated weapons acquired by our troops. All the elements involved skill in managing the weapons to suit topographic conditions and the mission entrusted to the formation.

The exercise was attended by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and Arab delegations in Egypt to attend the maneuvers.

Defense Minister Praises Exercise

NC0309072193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Ismailia, 2 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said he appreciates what he has seen of the operations in the major exercise

"Badr" carried out by the Egyptian Armed Forces, especially the crossing of a water barrier, which took place today. He said this practical exercise has shown that continuous maintenance of military equipment achieves higher performance from it. We must always work to achieve this.

General Tantawi said training of all Armed Forces units must take place on a practical basis and that junior commanders must be trained in controlling their units should they encounter high losses or annihilation.

General Tantawi said he was glad delegations from the fraternal Arab countries were following the exercise. Delegations have come from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Jordan. He affirmed that the Egyptian Armed Forces are there to offer any aid or expertise to the fraternal Arab countries.

The military delegations attending today's exercise said they admired the combat efficiency of the Egyptian Armed Forces. They said their work is great and impressive and makes the Arabs proud. It is also a testimony to the high standard of the Egyptian Armed Forces in the field of training.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Rebukes 'Baseless' U.S. Claims

EA0209184593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. 'Umar Baridu, first secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has briefed the Arab ambassadors of the Arab and Western states accredited to Khartoum on the true dimensions of the outrageous American decision against Sudan. Some of the ambassadors expressed their total sympathy and support for Sudan's position.

Mr. Baridu said meetings of this kind were part of the Sudan's intensive internal and external initiative to explain the facts and refute the American accusation, which was not based on any convincing or considerations. [as received] He said the American administration had been unable to substantiate allegations that Sudan had participated or engaged in any terrorist act or permitted any such act to originate from its territory.

In reply to the baseless American accusations, the first secretary of the Foreign Ministry stressed that Sudan had not requested that the United States withhold the information at its disposal, but had, on the contrary, requested that the United States make it available for submission to scientific and critical appraisal so that the information could either be confirmed or dismissed.

Mr. Baridu went on to say that the American administration had failed to provide such evidence, which was indicative of the weakness or absence of credibility of the American position. He referred to the double standards practiced by America in its dealings. Thus, America was silent over Israel's dealings with Palestine and over what the Serbs were doing to the Bosnian Muslims, as well as in the face of what the rebel John Garang was doing by way of bombarding aid workers, shooting down civil aircraft and bombarding innocent citizens. At the same time, the American administration was opening its doors to him and providing him with every kind of assistance. Moreover, the American administration had adopted every proposal made by the rebel Garang.

Ambassador Baridu said the double standards practiced by the United States stripped its accusations of all credibility and unmasked the real motives behind the American decision, which were the curbing of the National Salvation Revolution's independent spirit and intrinsic revivalism. He said the Popular Defense camps had been set up to serve the homeland just like similar ones in most states of the world.

Minister Rejects Terrorism Charges

PM0209135593 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Aug 93 p 4

[Interview with Higher Education Minister Ibrahim 'Umar by Mukhtar Badri in London "on Friday"]

[Excerpts] [Badri] After the recent U.S. decision to include you on the list of the states sponsoring terrorism, what is the Sudanese Government's assessment of the present situation?

['Umar] I want first to register that over the past years—at least the past two years—the United States has pursued an unfriendly policy toward Sudan. And it has become clear that it seizes opportunities to make such decisions against it. Despite all the attempts made by our government to prove that we have nothing to do with terrorism and that the Sudanese people by nature do not support terrorism, and despite the numerous visits to the United States by Sudanese delegations to refute the allegations made against us—despite all this the United States embarked on its decision, which was not a surprise but has provoked anger.

The United States wanted to besiege this country because it has decided to rely on itself and to adhere to the independence of its decisionmaking and because it has adopted a clear ideological and intellectual orientation. The decision to include Sudan on the list of the states sponsoring terrorism is designed to justify this political position. The United States itself admits that it has not got sufficient evidence to prove its allegations against us. [passage omitted]

[Badri] The United States justified its position by saying that Sudan provides shelter and training camps to extremist movements and provides support for Islamic opposition groups described as extremist in Egypt, north Africa, and elsewhere.

['Umar] The Sudanese Government does not set up training camps for any non-Sudanese organization, nor has it participated in disrupting security in some fraternal

states. Without doubt some Islamists in many places look at Sudan as a model in these times, when many states have weakened—which is the real reason for U.S. concern. Instead of acknowledging this, the United States continues to allege that Sudan provides training for terrorists. This is one point. Second, there is a big disagreement between us and the United States in determining who is a terrorist. We do not consider the Islamic movements in some states like Hamas terrorists. And the United States cannot deny that Hizballah contested the elections in Lebanon and won seats, so why should this party not be dealt with on the basis of the results it achieved and on the basis of its presence on the Lebanese scene.

[Badri] You are also accused of supplying Farah Aidid with weapons and of having special relations with Iran.

['Umar] First of all, talking about Aidid requires mentioning some points. They said that Sudan supplied Aidid with weapons provided by Iran. Anyone who knows the region's geography realizes that weapons coming from Iran would need to pass through Port Sudan to get to Mogadishu. In fact, this route is more difficult that any other.

And anyone who is familiar with the size of the air force present in Somalia now knows that Sudan cannot supply Aidid with weapons by air. So if air, land, and sea cannot be used to transport weapons to Mogadishu, how can this allegation be correct?

As for our relationship with Iran, it is a relationship between an Islamic state and another. And Sudan continues to stress that it wants to establish friendly relations with all states, including the United States and the West. And it is more proper to have better relations with the Islamic states. But to conclude that establishing cordial relations with it leads to the establishment of extremist movements financed by Iran and trained in Sudan is wrong. True, we have cordial relations with Iran, but they are not for the sake of terrorism, but in the interests of Islam.

[Badri] What about what is being reported about the participation of some elements from the Sudanese diplomatic mission in New York in preparing for the bombing of offices belonging to the United Nations and the United States?

['Umar] We have denied that overall and in detail, and we repeat this denial now. The elements of Sudan's mission have nothing to do with the plan to blow up any facility in the United States or elsewhere. And we urge the United States to provide the evidence for its allegation. Despite our repeated appeal to Washington to prove with evidence its accusation that we are terrorists, they have submitted nothing. [passage omitted]

[Badri] Do you believe that the U.S. position could develop into intervention in the south?

['Umar] Although intervention is not impossible, I rule it out, because the geographical nature of the south makes foreign intervention extremely costly. I doubt very much that any organization—no matter how powerful or arrogant—would walk into its own death. The south is not an exposed territory, and it is not easy to conduct any landing operations there. This is one point. Second, the United States has so far been unable to submit to the world any evidence to justify the decision to include Sudan on the terrorism list, let alone military intervention. It will not be easy for it to justify such a step to the world. In addition, such a decision has to be accepted by neighboring states, and I doubt very much that fraternal and friendly states would accept intervention. [passage omitted]

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Held

EA0209185093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0931 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Juba, 2 Sep (SUNA)—The citizens of Juba waged here Wednesday [1 September] a protest march condemning the unjust American decision listing Sudan among the states allegedly sponsoring terrorism. The demonstrators submitted a memorandum signed by professional and trade unions to the representative of Equatoria State, Wali [governor], who promised to convey the memo to the chairman of the Revolution Command Council. [passage omitted]

The representative of salvation committees addressed the march, stressing the unity of the Sudan, saying that the American decision targeted the civilized orientations in Sudan and that the Sudanese do not know terrorism. He also called for supporting the revolution in implementing the program of the national comprehensive strategy.

Minister Affirms Trust in Nigerian Peace Efforts

EA0209214193 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)—Minister of peace and rehabilitation, Abdullah Deng Nhial, has affirmed Sudan's trust in our brother Nigerians to continue mediation efforts between Sudan Government and outlaws movement for the sake of restoring peace in Sudan. He affirmed in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper of today that Sudan is convinced that Nigeria will continue its efforts for peace.

Concerning the internal negotiations between Sudan Government and the outlaws, he said that they encourage such negotiations, pointing out the successful efforts exerted by Ambassador Joseph Lagu in this sphere which, he said, come within the positive context of bringing nearer points of view.

Nhial explained that Sudan will consider peace proposals from the sisterly countries, saying that the coming period will witness a tangible stability and development in the south which will accelerate the peace process.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Delivers Speech on Peace Efforts, Terrorism

LD0209170093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali delivered a speech at Carthage Palace today when he chaired the closing conferences of Tunisian ambassadors and consular missions abroad. [passage omitted]

[Begin Ben Ali recording] [Passage omitted] On this occasion we express anew our complete solidarity with the Bosnian people and we call on the international community to speed up the establishment of just peace in that part of the world on the basis of the UN Security Council's resolutions and the recommendations of the London conference. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, we in Tunisia attach great importance to the peace issue in the Middle East. We do not spare any effort in backing all the endeavors aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and in contributing to all the initiatives aimed at serving this noble goal. Thus, we, at the side of the other parties, played a positive and active role in the peace process in order to reach an honorable and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

On the basis of our commitment to back this just cause, and to back the Palestinian people's wishes, we express our pleasure at the latest positive developments. We hope that the parties in the conflict will be successful in reaching the peace of the brave, particularly by Israel observing seriousness and sufficient courage so that the declaration of peace turns into a policy of real coexistence, guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people and spreading security and stability to the benefit of all.

We will continue our permanent endeavors to push forward the peace process in the Middle East region and in other hotbeds of tension in the world. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, ladies: While Tunisia today is enjoying security, stability, and progress and, with the help of God, the awareness of its people and the devotion of its leadership, this obliges us to further make efforts to confront the hostile terrorist elements who have been using some countries as bases and launching pads for scheming against Tunisia from abroad, after the page of terrorist extremism inside the country had been turned, so that our country may remain an oasis of security and peace, protect the splendid national gains it has realized, and strengthen its influence and cultural assets.

In this context, Tunisian diplomacy is called upon to make more moves to inform the concerned states, associations and organizations about the danger of these elements, and the reality of their aims and intentions, and to strive to expose their terrorist schemes and contain them in cooperation and coordination with the concerned parties of the international community in order to unify the criteria and standards concerning the definition of the nature of extremism, whether on religious, ethnic or political grounds, and to find an international framework to discuss these issues and clarify the views about terrorism and the granting of the right of asylum.

Political asylum is a humanitarian institution that has rules and regulations, and it should not be used for anything other than what it is designed for, nor should a refugee be allowed to engage in any activity likely to harm the interests of his country of origin, or damage the relations of this country with the country that grants asylum. We respect the sovereignty of all states and their prerogatives to run their own affairs, including the granting of asylum to whomsoever they wish. We do not permit ourselves to interfere in them in any way, but what we do not accept is a refugee engaging in hostilities against their countries or trying to harm their interests, all the more so since these states are convinced, with proof, facts and judicial charges, of the extremism of these refugees and their engaging in terrorism.

Tunisia, which is proud of its Arab-Islamic heritage and its maintaining of its deep-rooted traditions, based on openness and tolerance, will celebrate with other nations in 1995 the year of tolerance. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Paper Views Relations With Turkey, Urges Dialogue

JN0209142593 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 2 Sep 93

Baghdad, Sept 2, INA—Over the recent history of the Arab-Turkish relations, Turkey had been adopting a neutral position in as for as the Arabs' conflict with their adversaries is concerned. In other words, Turkey maintained good relations with the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular and refrained, unlike Iran, from interfering in the internal affairs of the Arabs, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said.

Both Iraq and Turkey have benefited from their friendly relationship. In addition to having their economic ties blossomed, the two countries managed to maintain peace and order alongside their joint border through the signing of security arrangements.

But during the Gulf crisis over Kuwait and following the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq, the former government in Ankara allowed Turkish territories to be used by foreign aggressors as a springboard to launch their aggression against Iraq. This unfriendly attitude has been detrimental to the interests of both Iraq and Turkey. Now Turkey has the Kurdish issue on its doorstep. This may spill over other territories and bring the region into turmoil by giving an excuse to foreign powers to interfere in the internal affairs of countries of the region. Under the deceitful banners of the so-called new world order or the issue of human rights, colonial powers are trying to dismantle other nations to mini-states to weaken (?and control) these countries.

The daily maintains that Turkey cannot be exempted from this subversive approach for the mere reason that it is a Muslim country. For being so it has been denied the possibility of joining the EC.

However, following the new governmental change in Turkey, there have been many statements by Turkish officials expressing the desire to restore Iraqi-Turkish relations to their previous level. This is hoped to be an indication that Turkey's officials are giving priority to Turkey's interests over those of the "allied countries."

It should be realized that the U.S. and its allies are no longer in need of Turkey, now the former Soviet Union has collapsed. Therefore they can go back on their promises to Turkey and use the Kurdish issue to blackmail the country.

Furthermore, this issue cannot be contained without returning to full cooperation between Iraq and Turkey, the BAGHDAD OBSERVER added.

Since Turkey was the party that took a unilateral decision to boycott Iraq economically, it is Turkey's turn to take the initiative and restore these relations to their previous level in line with the national interests of the two countries.

Therefore, it is about time for an Iraqi-Turkish dialogue to start in order to review all issues of great concern to the two sides away from any foreign influence. Such contact would be beneficial to both countries to root out the seeds of dissent the U.S. and the West are trying to sow in the region with the aim of dismantling the area into yet more mini states through encouraging communal and ethnic conflicts. This is a burning issue for the parties concerned that should be dealt with seriously and in a joint effort. Maintaining cordial relations between Turkey and Iraq is bound to facilitate the solving of all outstanding issues between the two sides, the daily concluded.

Iranian Artillery Reportedly Shells Villages

NC0209191093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The Iranian forces' artillery yesterday, Wednesday, 1 September, shelled the villages of Waynah, (Mran), and (Darkhan) for four consecutive hours. The Iranian shelling set fire to fields and gardens there.

Rabin Explains Decision To Talk To PLO

TA0309102393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night lashed out at the ministers who had urged him to officially recognize the PLO. According to him, these ministers have no understanding of international relations or business. Rabin disclosed that he made the decision to engage in direct contacts with the PLO about four months ago. Our correspondent 'Ofer Vardi reports:

[Begin recording] [Vardi] According to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, terror will continue. To eradicate it, we must fight it intensively with military force while we look for a solution to the problems propagating it, he said. [passage omitted]

Addressing a rally of the Friends of the Weizmann Institute in Tel Aviv, Rabin disclosed that he decided to speak to the PLO four months ago when he saw that no progress was being made in the talks with the Palestinian delegation.

[Rabin] My government includes many members who kept urging me: Why do you not recognize the PLO? Why do you not speak to the PLO? They simply have no understanding of business or international relations, and international relations is also a business. You do not sell something before you ensure payment. You do not sell something before you know what you will be getting in return. I am willing to make painful compromises.

Moreover, peace is not made with friends. Peace is made with enemies, and some of them—and I will not specify their names—I abhor enormously.

[Vardi] Rabin emphasized that in view of the heavy pressure being exerted on them, he did not know when the Palestinians would sign the declaration of principles.

[Rabin] I would not say that the entire package is a masterpiece. It entails great chances as well as risks. That is why I want to do it in stages: Gaza and a piece of Jericho [as heard].

[Vardi] The prime minister added that in any event he would not evacuate any settlement in the territories and that Jerusalem would remain united forever. He added that if the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza deteriorated we would always be able to turn back the wheel. [end recording]

Beilin: Delay in Recognition Due to Palestinians

TA0309053893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Yosi Beilin by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] What is holding up the announcement about mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO?

[Beilin] The ball is now in the Palestinian court. We presented them several conditions some time ago, and they must make up their mind whether to accept them or not. If they do not, the declaration of principles will be signed by the delegations in Washington. I assume somebody will ultimately be found on the Palestinian side to head their delegation and sign on their behalf.

If they fulfill these conditions, then the wall that still stands between us and them will come crumbling down. This may be within a political framework....[pauses] In any event, then it will be altogether a different ball game.

[Einstein] In other words, the mutual recognition and the signing of the declaration of principles are not interrelated?

[Beilin] They definitely are not.

[Einstein] How long will this waiting period be?

[Beilin] I think it is a matter of days. In any event, it will be within the 11th round of talks which continues next week.

[Einstein] If the issue of mutual recognition materializes and the PLO accepts Israel's conditions concerning the clauses that must be eradicated from the Palestinian National Covenant, could Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres be the man who would sign on our behalf, while Abu-Mazin [Muhammad 'Abbas] would come to Washington and sign on behalf of the PLO?

[Beilin] I have no idea. This issue has not been discussed. I must admit that I do not consider it a key issue. Indeed, I suppose that if a dialogue begins between us and the PLO—which would have numerous implications on the negotiations—the agreement could be signed by other people. Nevertheless, who that man will be has not been discussed, at least not on our side.

[Einstein] Other than eradicating those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that do not recognize Israel's right to exist, what other demands did Israel pose to the PLO as a prerequisite for recognizing it?

[Beilin] I cannot comment on those demands, beyond telling you that we basically reiterated the historical demands spelled out in the well-known Yariv-Shemtov concerning recognition of Israel's right to exist: ceasing terror and amending the Palestinian Covenant.

[Einstein] When Israel's demands were presented in the preliminary talks with the PLO men, did you get the impression that the PLO would accept those demands?

[Beilin] The truth is this is such a weighty issue for them that it required summoning their institutions for discussion, and not just some preliminary comments. At the same time, it seems to me they are very tempted by it and they would like to tackle it despite the difficulties. It is interesting to note the symmetry of the difficulties both sides encounter with the opposition—albeit of a different type, but an opposition or a feeling of opposition nevertheless—as if the men who negotiated or accepted

this agreement had, so to speak, sold the national interests of the entire nation down the river.

[Einstein] You said that the ball actually is in the Palestinian court. Does that mean that Israel has met all the conditions posed by the PLO?

[Beilin] There is no question here of meeting any conditions, but of a definite unilateral move. In other words, we demand a series of conditions which I suppose are not easy for them. If these conditions are met, I assume our government will convene and decide whether it is prepared to recognize the PLO and negotiate with it.

[Einstein] Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Yosi Beilin, thank you very much and good morning.

[Beilin] Thank you and good morning.

Baraq: Accord Creates 'Complex' Security Situation

TA0309101693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The specifics of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles will present a tough challenge to the negotiators regarding implementation of the security arrangements in the areas of the autonomy, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq stated last night. According to him, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to tackle a tough and complex security situation which will emerge as a result of the agreement.

[Begin Baraq recording] The State of Israel needs the IDF's strength even at a time when the bells of peace are ringing. This strength is what ultimately brought the Arab leaders to the realization that the conflict with Israel must be solved around the negotiating table. This strength now enables the Israeli Government to conduct direct negotiations for peace from a position of strength.

Nevertheless, the agreement's specifics now being discussed between Israel and the Palestinians will pose a tough challenge to our negotiators regarding the implementation of the security arrangements and might lead to a tough and complex security reality which we will have to tackle. The IDF's strength and its endurance of this test will also shape and determine the nature of our achievements in a war, if one is forced on us, as well as the nature of additional agreements, if these come about. [end recording]

Right Wing Initiates 'Wide-Scale' Opposition Campaign

TA0309133093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Leaders of Israel's opposition parties issued a wide-scale campaign this morning against the government's proposed agreements with the Palestinians. They urged Israelis to attend a mass demonstration in Jerusalem next Tuesday [7 September] and promised a long, hard campaign to bring the government down. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

More than two dozen leaders and key figures in the right-wing opposition parties took part in this morning's meeting in Tel Aviv. It was a war council that brought together old enemies and current rivals to discuss tactics in their fight against what they said was one of the most crucial times in Israel's history.

Bibi Netanyahu and David Levi, Yitzhaq Shamir and Arik Sharon, Beni Begin and Tzahi Hanegbi were among the Likud participants. Sitting beside them was Zvulun Hammer and Avner Sciaki, old rivals from the National Religious Party; Rehav'am Ze'evi and Rabbi Ba-Gad from Moledet and Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet.

The government was accused of carrying out a policy of lies and deceit, of promising no withdrawal before the elections and preparing to concede vital territory now, of denying it would ever talk with the PLO even as it carried out secret negotiations with PLO leaders that will ultimately create a Palestinian state.

Bibi Netanyahu repeated his demand that the government take its proposals to the polls, that the decisions involved are so vital that every citizen should be allowed to pronounce on them through national elections, and as soon as possible.

Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet said that terror will not be stopped but will continue if the government's proposals are implemented. The municipal elections due in November will be a clear test of the public's preference, he said. Every seat won by what he called the nationalist camp would be a solid rejection of the government.

Rehav'am Ze'evi said the proposals are not a plan for peace, but a program that will bring Israel into a speedy war with its enemies. Terror has triumphed, he said, and can only lead the Arabs into believing that more terror will bring them even more gains.

Beni Begin vigorously ideas that have been voiced suggesting his late father, Menahem Begin, would in any way have supported the government proposals. He said the government was handing over land and legislative powers to an organization for the liberation of Palestine from any Jewish presence.

Sarid on Opposition to Agreement

TA0309103593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Sep 93 pp 15, 23

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Yig'al Serna in Sarid's Jerusalem office; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Serna] Are your worried about a civil war breaking out over the agreement with the PLO?

[Sarid] No. Like the tango, a civil war takes two, and in this case there is not even one. I do not think that out of

habit we should refer to all the settlers as a single force. And [Likud Knesset Member] Beni Begin cannot be equated with some raving rabbi.

According to a survey, only 2 percent say they will take up arms, and even they are only talking. I belong to a government that will uproot Jewish settlements, and I am ready to show empathy for those about to be uprooted. Whoever says he will fight, that is acceptable up to a certain point. I will accept it until shooting starts. I will consent to it if they lie down on the road and even if they stand on top of water towers, like they did in Yamit [during the 1982 evacuation]. That is also okay.

[Serna] Is one sharpshooter enough to create an explosion?

[Sarid] The danger is not a civil war. It is the madmen, those who will take up arms and want to shoot, those are the ones who make me shudder. That can be the fuse. That is what I want to prevent, the last madman who remains on the water tower holding a rife after all the others have been reassured.

Professor Ya'ir Sprinzak has developed a thesis on how a government can calm tempers, and I support the idea of elections after the agreement—not the current agreement, but the agreement to cede territory—has been initialed.

We will then hold elections. The agreement will provide for such solid security that we will gain a large enough majority to keep the Likud in opposition for another 25 years. Once and for all, we will end the dispute about whether the people support peace or not. [passage omitted]

Arab Knesset Member on Support for Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC0309075593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Arab Knesset member and chairman of the Arab Democratic Party, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawshah] Thank you, brother, and greetings to you all.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Israeli-Palestinian agreement was a surprise for the world and the Arab and Palestinian public, coming after 10 rounds of talks during which no tangible progress was made. How did the Palestinian public, both inside Israel and in the occupied Arab territories, receive this agreement, which is better known as the Declaration of Principles on Gaza and Jericho First?

[Darawshah] First, let me say that it was a surprise to the masses within the Palestinian people, inside Israel, in the Arab world, and people in general. But those in the know and those involved in the intricate details of the situation were confident, as I was, that we were close to an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis to be followed by a comprehensive agreement involving Israel and the various Arab parties. This is because everybody believed the status quo could not continue. The Israeli Government needed this agreement, as did the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The people of the region need a break to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. From this premise, I see the vast majority of the Palestinian masses, inside Israel, in the West Bank and Gaza, or in the diaspora, supporting this agreement, which is a very important national achievement by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO and brother President Yasir 'Arafat. The signs are clear. There are popular marches and massive rallies in support of the agreement. All this proves that the Palestinian people want this agreement, which will open doors and offer broad hopes toward achieving independence and ending the occupation. I would like to add that most of the Jewish public back this agreement, as shown by the opinion polls conducted in the past two days.

[Abu-al-Majd] But there is opposition to this agreement in the Israeli Knesset, of which you are a member. What impact could this opposition have on the agreement and could it change the march?

[Darawshah] There is opposition inside Israel and also among the Palestinian people. Various parties and organizations in Israel and also among the Palestinian people are against this agreement. If we take a look at the political map inside Israel, we will find that the right-wing parties reject it because they do not want to give up a single inch of the territories. The settlers reject it because they want to keep the settlements and the occupied Arab territories and do not want to recognize any of the Palestinian people's rights. But the majority in the Knesset, the majority of the people, and the entire government support this agreement. For instance, I believe that at least 70 Knesset members out of a total of 120 support this agreement. The government now has 62 members in the Knesset. Five Arab members from the Arab Democratic Party and the Front [not further specified] also support the agreement without being part of the government coalition. This brings the number to 67. Add to this at least three members from the United Torah Judaism party, who have publicly voiced support for the agreement, and you see that the agreement enjoys great official and constitutional backing inside Israel.

[Abu-al-Majd] Reports say a joint security committee from the Israeli security apparatus and the PLO will be formed to cooperate on internal security inside Gaza. How true is this and do you know of any arrangements to be made once the agreement is signed? What role could you, the Palestinians inside Israel, along with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, play in this agreement?

[Darawshah] The agreement stipulates cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli police to prevent extremists and opponents from both sides from achieving their goal of causing a flare-up in the situation and blocking peace. Unfortunately, the Israeli and Palestinian fanatics have a common interest in burying the process and scuttling the peace march. As Palestinians inside Israel, as political forces, on behalf of the Arab Democratic Party, and, I believe, as a representative of the Arab Palestinian masses inside Israel, we say we support the PLO's legitimate leadership and Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues in this courageous and wise stance, which was taken to secure the Palestinian rights and force the Zionist movement represented by the Israeli Government to admit for the first time in 100 years that there is a Palestinian people who have a right to a homeland, freedom, and independence. But, the Israeli Government is now required to officially and publicly recognize the PLO, something that will be done in the coming few weeks at most.

[Abu-al-Majd] Reports say the Gaza-Jericho First Agreement is a prelude to a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The PLO was set up to liberate the occupied Arab territories. At first, it opted for armed struggle. If the PLO is recognized, does it mean it will be dissolved and a transitional government formed? What do you think will be the shape of the official Palestinian set-up in the coming stage?

[Darawshah] The primary and declared goal of the Palestinians, as stated by the PLO and President 'Arafat in the past few days, is to establish an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as the capital to coexist peacefully beside the State of Israel. This is the official and declared goal and the inalienable stance of the PLO and the Palestinian people. The armed struggle was intended to force Israel to recognize the Palestinian people's right to freedom and independence and to resist the occupation. Once the occupation is over, a Palestinian state is set up, and the Palestinian people secure their rights or reach an agreement that guarantees the fulfillment of these goals, there will be no need for violence or armed struggle. But as long as there is occupation, armed struggle will remain. I believe the purpose of the recent agreement is to end mutual violence and reach a peace agreement that ends all sorts of murder and violence. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] Will your party stay in Israel after a Palestinian state is set up or will it move to the Palestinian territories or the Palestinian state?

[Darawshah] Look, brother, we have a homeland, a cause, a land, and a right to our sacred soil. We want an independent Palestinian state for our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora and we take pride in this state as being our own, but we will not leave our land; we will remain on our national soil in the Galilee, the Triangle [West Bank area], the Negev, and in the mixed towns. We will remain owners of a homeland. We will not leave and let the supporters of the transfer [of Arabs] and racists achieve their racist goals. We will stay here as long as there are olive trees. [passage omitted]

IDF Soldier Killed in West Bank; Rabin Comments

TA0209184893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] This report has been just released: IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Sergeant Tziyon Alqobi, was killed and another IDF soldier was slightly wounded when they came under fire in the vicinity of Negohot, in the area of the Hebron District village of Dura this afternoon. The fallen serviceman's family has been notified. Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports:

[Begin Liss recording] The terrorists—evidently four or five men—laid an ambush, sitting in a car near a curve on the road connecting the Negohot Nahal presettlement and the Adorayim junction. Two soldiers were driving an army car down the pitted road from Adorayim to the presettlement. When they entered the curve, the terrorists fired at the car from automatic weapons. The driver of the army car lost control, the vehicle swerved into the wadi, and overturned. Both soldiers were wounded; one was wounded critically and later died of his injuries, and the other sustained medium injuries. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, reacted several minutes ago to the terrorist attack in which Sergeant Tziyon Alqobi was killed. His remarks were relayed by our correspondent Alon Ben-David: [passage omitted]

[Begin Rabin recording] Various terrorist organizations still carry out attacks; I will not go into detail. This was another heinous terrorist attack. We will fight terrorism for as long as it exists. I do not doubt that most of the worst terrorist attacks were perpetrated in order to harm our chances of paving a new road toward a solution. We will have to continue fighting terrorism while striving for a solution that we all hope will end these criminals' need for terror. [end recording]

IDF: Attack Will Not Affect Peace Process

TA0309063393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] The terrorist attack in Hebron yesterday will not affect the recent political moves and the peace process, security sources stated yesterday. Army sources emphasized that the attack was part of the ongoing actions by terrorist organizations, mainly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, which seize every opportunity to attack Israeli soldiers. These organizations have declared that they will pursue their efforts to stage terror attacks to illustrate their

opposition to the framework agreement attained by the Israel and the Palestinians and to highlight Hamas' relative power within the Palestinian population in the territories. Security sources estimate that these organizations will make a concentrated effort to stage attacks.

The terrorists who staged the attack yesterday in the village of Dura used methods similar to those used in the past, both in the Hebron area and in the Gaza Strip. The members of the terror squad lay in ambush, and when the military vehicle drove by they opened fire at it and fled.

Palestinian sources claimed last night that the attack in the southern Hebron hills had been perpetrated by Hamas. The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have for several months been chasing at least one Hamas squad which has been operating in this area. Military sources argued last night that ever since the deportation of over 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, Hamas has been making every possible effort to demonstrate that this move had not affected its operational ability. Hamas is responsible for 24 percent of the terror attacks in Judaea and Samaria, and most of its activities are concentrated in the Hebron area. [passage omitted]

Government Said Considering Return of Fatah Deportees

TA0309102693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 93 p A1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The government is inclined to approve the return of dozens of longtime Fatah deportees next week, thereby serving as a counterweight to the expected return of approximately 160 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees.

Senior political sources yesterday said that Israel is inclined to accept a request by PLO leaders in the territories to return longtime deportees. According to the sources this act, as well as the possible release of Fatah detainees, can be presented as an Israeli goodwill gesture.

Defense establishment sources yesterday recalled that the defense establishment has located a group of 130 longtime deportees whose return was already approved in principle. The first batch of 30 deportees was permitted to return in late April.

The Palestinian elements who spoke with the senior Israeli Government echelon said that it is inconceivable to let Hamas score a propaganda victory just when the PLO leadership is trying to recruit the support of Palestinian public opinion.

Ministries Set Up Committee To Plan Regional Grid

TA0209152593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The Energy and Infrastructure Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Electrical Corporation have set up a committee that will plan the transformation of the Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian, and Syrian electricity grids into one regional grid. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the regional grid merger features in an appendix to the Israel-PLO agreement.

Partnership Between Delegations Reportedly To End

TA0209182193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Washington has learned that King Husayn of Jordan intends to announce the severance of the partnership between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks and the consideration of each delegation as independent.

Israeli sources in Washington have said that Jordan and Israel will shortly announce agreement on the talks agenda, which will be crowned by a peace treaty between the two countries.

King Comments on PLO-Israeli Accord, Other Issues

JN0209184993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Interview with King Husayn by "Arab Journalist" Ghassan Tuwayni; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tuwayni] I am delighted that your majesty has granted me the interview, as I know that you must have a heavy schedule at this important juncture in the history of the Palestinian issue. An issue for which, over the past 40 years, you have given generously, and the same goes for the pan-Arab cause. This has been the case since the Hashemite family came to Jordan. With your permission, may I come straight to the point?

[Husayn] By all means.

[Tuwayni] The agreement between our brother Palestinians and Israel is now the most talked about subject. Many adjectives have been used to describe it, favorable as well as those that give cause for concern. You are reported to have said that you had no advance knowledge of what took place. I will not go into detail here, but how would you assess the agreement, if you think the time is right for your assessment?

[Husayn] I am pleased to speak to you and the brother listeners across the Arab world at this critical stage in the life of this nation. Your introduction mentioned the Hashemites and the responsibilities they have shouldered since the inception of the Kingdom—their responsibility to protect it against the schemes that targeted Palestine and maybe other parts of the great Arab world. From the beginning, this family has been associated with Palestine and looked after Palestinian rights and Palestinian national soil. My family has been associated with Jerusalem, defending Islamic and Christian rights there. It was Husayn I [King Husayn's great grandfather] who first had to contend with these schemes and chose to sacrifice everything rather than bargain away the rights of the Palestinians to their national soil. Then came the role of my founding grandfather [King 'Abdallah] who fell to martyrdom on the grounds of al-Aqsa Mosque. We have since tried our best. Under the present circumstances, maybe I should try not to get carried away by emotions. I can say that it is perhaps premature at this moment to give a clear-cut opinion about what has been agreed upon between the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and the Israeli Government. This is because, frankly, up to this moment, I haven't been involved in all that has been agreed upon."

As far as we, as Hashemites, are concerned, it is an honor for us to serve and belong to this nation, which God the almighty honored with the holy Koran that descended in Arabic on the prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation. It also honors us to belong to the prophet.

Actually, the decisive point for me regarding my direct responsibility toward the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian territories—in the sense of abandoning these territories in favor of both independent Palestinian decisionmaking and the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people—was reached at the summit meeting in Rabat [in 1974] when my brother, who is now the president of the state of Palestine and who was then chairman of the PLO, appealed to the brother Arab leaders to free him and the Palestinian people of the Hashemite trusteeship. My brother his majesty [reference to King Hassan II of Morocco] was then the chairman of this conference. Impressed by what took place and what was said, his majesty decided to withdraw from his chairmanship of the Arab summit in Rabat until this issue was resolved by giving the Palestinian people's leadership its full right to represent the Palestinian people in the subsequent phases.

I responded to the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic demand. I always called for enabling the Palestinian people and their leadership, their sole legitimate representative, to exercise their right to represent this people, especially since this people's position was clear and obvious, and their eagerness to play this role by themselves was also clearly shown.

The circumstances, however, did not help until the times and world situation changed, and until we reached the last phase and the situation we now have in this world. Added to this is what befell us, as an Arab nation, particularly in 1990 and what has thus far followed, in terms of the invasion of Kuwait and its results, the Gulf catastrophe, and the situation that we have been experiencing up to this day. Then came the invitation to Madrid to begin the work for peace, which we have continuously embarked on.

Any war, whatsoever, will ultimately result in peace. However, we still call for a just and honorable peace, which would be acceptable to, and protected by, the generations to come.

We were unable, practically, at that time to go as a Jordanian delegation that supports a Palestinian delegation. Eventually, we concluded that the only solution was to provide an umbrella for the Palestinian and Jordanian

delegations to go together and that the Palestinian delegation should represent the Palestinian dimension and we would support it with all our potentials and capabilities.

From the beginning, we also felt that there was an uncomfortable situation. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are always mentioned, but the emphasis was on talks and negotiations to implement Resolution 242....

[Tuwayni, interrupting] Even in the latest agreement it is mentioned.

[Husayn] The latest agreement mentions Resolutions 242 and 338, as reported. As for the concerned countries, the resolutions deal with their conditions in a specific formula concerning their occupied territories in accordance with the arrangements for the Madrid conference and what followed these arrangements. As for the Palestinian dimension, the discussion was on an interim phase with the aim of reaching a final solution. From the beginning, I used to ask: Why this distinction? Why an interim phase? And where it will lead? I did not get any convincing answers other than that after long years of conflict, doubts, and pains that affected all, some time is needed in order to be able to implement Resolution 242, or to consider the resolution a basis for the solution that can be achieved. The process began, and it was followed by the call for a multilateral conference. Hence, we made a decision to go, and in fact, I thought that our Arab brothers and the world should take part by shouldering their responsibilities toward the situation that would result from reaching any solution, as far as the human dimension and other various dimensions are concerned, and that preparation should be made in anticipation of reaching a just and honorable peace that secures to the Palestinians their rights on their national soil.

Take Jordan, for example. Throughout its history, Jordan has been affected by every negative element and result of every major event that has not been in the interest of this nation. This was its fate, and it is an honor for Jordan that it has played—as much as it can—the role of defending the rights of this nation.

This also gives meaning to what has been proposed before, insofar as living conditions are concerned and changing them for the better and one's deserved right to a dignified life in this region. I believe recent events have borne out our decision to accept the invitation to the multilateral meetings. As for the first part, we moved to the United States, and the talks went on. The umbrella was the vehicle for our Palestinian brothers to discuss their own affairs, their aspirations, hopes, and rights. Coordination throughout these stages has not been up to the required level. Here, I find myself in a rather difficult situation....

[Tuwayni, interrupting] And sad, too....

[Husayn] And sad. But the answer to the question asked by the Arab individual on whether all these latest developments were discussed at the latest Beirut meeting or at the previous coordination meetings, is that they were neither discussed nor brought up.

[Tuwayni] I have a question. Journalists sometimes take the liberty of interrupting kings....

[Husayn, interrupting] Not at all....

[Tuwayni] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat was visiting your majesty on 24 August. According to news reports, the agreement was signed on 21 August. We assume he told you about it....

[Husayn] I must make myself clear and put all the people in the picture of the truth. I support independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

[Tuwayni, interrupting] Whatever that is?

[Husayn] Whatever that is. We hope that God the almighty will help the Palestinians attain their rights on their national soil, and we will back them with all the resources and energies at our disposal. We are not the custodians of Palestinian decisionmaking, nor will we be. I believe this sentiment is shared by the other parties directly involved in the peace process. The brother president of the state of Palestine has visited us three times. He visited us here, in this his second homeland. The first time that he addressed the subject was prior to my latest trip to the United States. After the talks, he wanted us to have a tete-a-tete, at which he informed me that there was a rather important thing he thought I should be informed of and that he was duty bound to let me know about it. This was that contacts had begun between the PLO and the Israeli Government. Given the importance of the issue, he wanted to inform me about it. There was a proposal floating about Gaza.

In fact, Gaza experienced an extremely difficult phase, during which our kinsfolk and brothers there suffered more than their brothers in any other part of the Palestinian territories. Gaza is a small area that houses a large number of people. The outcome of this suffering was an unstable and painful situation, in the full sense of the word.

My comment or reaction is what I discussed with our brother officials here: I was concerned that Israel, without holding any discussion with any party whatsoever, would withdraw from Gaza. If this happens, the situation in Gaza may explode, and its repercussions may affect the West Bank, God forbid. Some people may even think that such a situation could extend beyond the West Bank.

I wondered: Can Gaza be regained under such circumstances? The answer was: Yes, it can, if you help us. [I asked]: How can we help you? He said: This is what has been proposed, at any rate. We said: In any case, we hope for the best, God willing. When I went abroad, I was asked: What is the secret behind the stumbling of the peace talks? The answer is clear: [Resolution] 242 is not equally applied to all the territories occupied in 1967.

The occupied territories of states are being handled. The Palestinian dimension, however, is handled in a different way.

I rightfully lauded the courage of the Palestinian negotiators who assumed their responsibility and went [to Washington] in order to hold negotiations and claim the Palestinian people's rights to their national soil, thus taking many risks on the physical, moral, and historic levels. In my opinion, the failure to achieve results was due to the fact that the talks were about an interim phase, and that it was high time to give the Palestinian people the outlines of a final solution. On the other hand, there is the issue of Jerusalem, in terms of the holy places. As Arabs, we talk about Jerusalem against the background of 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab's Covenant, for example, or against any other background. We also talk about the Arab right—Christian and Muslim alike—and about the need for an acceptable formula, so no peace will be achieved unless there is a situation that satisfies all believers in God—in terms of the three divine religions. Such peace should also return the rights to their owners.

To have Jerusalem be controlled by one party, God forbid, would not lead to a lasting and aspired peace. Moreover, the issue of Jerusalem is being discussed from different angles. Israel speaks about Jerusalem while it has annexed one-fifth of the occupied West Bank to it. We speak about it with the situation that prevailed before the catastrophe in June 1967 in mind. The world does not know what Jerusalem means for both parties. I used to say that it would be nice to have the inhabitants of Jerusalem participate in electing the leadership that will assume its responsibilities during the transitional phase that will lead to the final status phase. However, there should be guarantees, at a minimum, against territorial changes, and freezing the situation until a final solution is reached to tackle all these issues. During a meeting with brother Yasir 'Arafat, some members of the negotiating delegation, and some of our brothers, we discussed the need for coordination, and the fact that it was the time to decide whether there was enough trust and whether there were enough mutual interests to meet on all levels, reach understanding on all issues, and to set up a joint operations room to tackle anything new, and to be up to the required level to confront developments. We agreed that this is a duty. Committees were supposed to be formed to play their role in achieving that objective. I left to go abroad, and matters did not develop as we had expected and agreed upon, until the brother president's ['Arafat] last visit took place. He informed me that contacts have continued, expanded, and have occurred in several capitals. He said that discussion is focused now on Gaza and Jericho and a safe passageway between them and on the future and the final solution. He said that this constitutes a kind of disengagement where the responsibility for Gaza and Jericho will be transferred to the Palestinian side and, regarding the linkage between Gaza and Jericho, with the objective of not keeping Gaza outside the picture and of achieving linkage—as we all had wished—among all the Palestinian parts to form a homeland for the Palestinians on their soil and land and a base on which he will fulfill his hopes and aspirations and attain his rights.

It seemed to me that 'Arafat was upset because there were no answers or reactions to what happened by some important parties in the world, specifically the United States. This is what happened. As for the details, we are getting to know them now through....

[Tuwayni, interrupting] Sir, the agreement suggests many things. From a quick review of what was published in the newspapers, we notice a basic change in some of the political talk that has been heard. I think your majesty will have an open mind to listen to it. Palestinians in the past used to fear, or claim to be afraid of, an Arab-Israeli peace achieved at their expense. What do we see this time? We see that we are on a Palestinian-Israeli peace track. I do not say that it is at the expense of the Arab countries. However, as an Arab citizen, I was expecting to see, within the framework of the confederation that was talked about, Jordan and the future Palestinian state, whatever that is, on one side negotiating with Israel about post-peace affairs, such as developing the Palestinian state. From reading the agreement, I see that there are Israeli-Palestinian committees to be formed and that they will discuss with Jordan the fate, for example, of the Dead Sea or development. The agreement, in general, seems to be an economic agreement with a political umbrella. It also puts aside the understanding that is supposed to arise from the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian authority, which represents the Palestinians, and the rest of Arab states, starting with Jordan and Egypt. Finally, I have many questions, but there are ironies, as we said. The Palestinians in Jordan represent...[pauses] view Jordan and what Jordan has done for the Palestinian cause in a manner, which, I think, has not been affected—to the extent that Palestinians in Kuwait came to Jordan naturally, and they are now a group. Will you let the agreement take its natural course or, to protect your Hashemite message and your commitment to Jerusalem, as well as your responsibility for a community—half of whom are perhaps Palestinians—will you intervene at later stages so that the course of events will be more in harmony with what could be left of Arab solidarity?

[Husayn] Sir, as for the agreement under discussion, what I want to say is: We were not in the picture. Nor were we in the picture of the details at all. I believe that we, here in Jordan—and I do not want to speak for the other concerned Arab brothers of the countries participating in the peace process—I believe that our decision is one, and our stand is one—to the effect that the Palestinians have every right to speak about their affairs, aspirations, ambitions, and rights—and that the decision is theirs. We support and back it to the best of our ability so as to perform our duty.

With respect to the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, when we made the decision to disengage, we did not do it in the interests of Israel. It was a domestic affair between us and the brothers to whom we are closest. It was in

response to their demand and approach, and out of our conviction that this is a Palestinian right, so long as this was the choice. We bless and support it to the best of our ability. We will always be, as we have always been, the closest to Palestine, the people, the land, the cause, and the right. If there is pain, which may be justifiable, it is because we are facing historic challenges and responsibilities at a time when coordination among us as Arab parties—not to mention the two teams moving under one umbrella that enabled the Palestinian side to play its role up to the current situation—this coordination was not up to the required level. This is the essence of the problem.

[Tuwayni] You are a man with a message. The organic relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians necessitates....

[Husayn, interrupting] I know. With regard to us here in Jordan, Jordanians from various roots and origins, we are one family. We have chosen our path—the path of democracy, sharing of responsibility, respect for human rights, maintaining the constitution, and eagerness to be protected by the Jordanian umbrella that has been provided by the National Charter, which represents all political opinions and trends in this country. This will continue unless anyone of us chooses a different approach. The basis of the Palestine question is the issue of unity. In accordance with this, the West Bank was considered a trust until a final solution is achieved, in the sense that the Palestinians attain their rights on their national soil. This has changed. Sir, Camp David was the problem that we faced then. Our position on it was that a situation developed and agreements were concluded in isolation from us. Those agreements imposed roles on us, to which we were not a party in any way. Neither were we informed or involved in arriving at that situation. That was why we did not accept that situation. I remember that I traveled throughout the Arab homeland, relaying to my brothers the facts of what had happened then. I asked every brother I met just to assure me that I was being defended. I want to say nothing more about the results. Then, a summit meeting was held. The outcome now is the situation we are experiencing.

[Tuwayni] Sir, permit me to be a little persistent. Husayn is a man with a message. Forty years of rule that have not been void of content. You have endured. This is a fact. You have been wronged, if I may say so. This is also a fact. Your grandfather, King 'Abdallah tried to promote the Palestine question much more than now, perhaps at a time when it was impossible to do so. Yet, charges were leveled against it. You, personally, warned the Arabs, cautioned them, and tried to unify them although Jordan is not a major Arab state. Do you believe that—permit my insistence—a Hashemite message is required from Husayn Bin-Talal in an attempt to save not only the Palestinian territory, which belongs to the Palestinians, but to develop an Arab harmony and conciliation to establish a new regional order, which we want to be an Arab one, so that it will not be imposed on us under any other name? What is your Hashemite message?

[Husayn] How can I decide, sir, the shape of this message that we always make....

[Tuwayni, interrupting] By calling for a summit meeting, for example.

[Husayn] We have called for, attended, and responded to all calls for any Arab summit conference. Let's say that I am calling for a summit. This is a call for every brother. I say to them that the Arab destiny is in danger and that this stage is dangerous and necessitates an Arab meeting that takes us out of our present situation to rise above the injuries, pains, and misunderstanding in order to play our role and duty in shouldering our responsibilities, and drawing the shape of the future in service of the Arab human being and the coming Arab generations. We are making this call, and we do not know whether there will be a response or not. At the same time, we emphasize our full readiness to respond to any Arab call for holding an Arab summit, as we had always done.

We emphasize anew that the concern is about the human being and playing our role and fulfilling our duty toward him to ensure him a better life, restore his full rights, and live in security and peace—not to live in a lie but in a fact—to live as a human being and to exercise his rights in this life.

[Tuwayni] Your majesty spoke about the Arab human being more than once. If we carefully examine the initial Palestinian-Israeli agreement, we see that the train of peace in the Middle East is moving. Your majesty and all Arab countries have never been against this train. On the contrary, we lost a land as a result of the Palestine question. If this process proceeds, what will be the features of the peaceful land in this Arab world that will secure flourishing horizons for the Arab human being—not only in the economic sector, as the case with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but also in the intellectual field and concerning the needs of the modern age, the technological race that is ahead of us, modernization, environment—your majesty delivered speeches on this subject—and lastly, what is the most important thing, is it our dignity through playing an independent and effective Arab role on Arab and international levels?

[Husayn] Sir, allow me to concentrate on just one issue that you mentioned about the agreement. We are not against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We support the Palestinian decision. I may go further to praise the Palestinian courage in making such a decision. We bless what serves Palestinian interests and on what the Palestinians agree. I believe that this is not our position only here in Jordan, but it is also the position of my Arab brothers as well. May they receive the blessings of God. I only wanted to say that the road leading to the target—if it came to pass, which seems to be the case—that there actually is a another kind of Arab dealing in the service of the Arab interest in the face of challenges.

You have mentioned confederation, sir, and my answer to this is and will remain that this depends on the future. We will discuss the future relationship when our brothers

and kinsfolk are able to choose and express their will freely. Then, we will talk about the relationship, be it a confederation or under any other name. In 1972, we proposed a concept of how the relationship can be after the liberation of the land and its return to its rightful owners. Our position now on any new proposals is the same: When the land is returned to its people and rightful owners and when they are free to decide what they want, we will build together what can be. Under no agreement, to which we are not a party, shall we accept that a certain situation be imposed on us.

The other issue is the Arab society and peace. I do not think it possible for us to attain anything in this world before we focus our attention on the rights of the Arab individual in the Arab world—Shura, democracy, participatory politics, and human rights. And then it is natural that, since we are living in an era of peace and the more important issues are addressed, this will affect not only the Middle East region but will have repercussions further afield. We hope that we will be afforded a chance in the Arab world to reorganize ourselves in order to build on solid ground. We have always come under such pressure and faced challenges that diverted our energies from working for the future and for future generations. I believe that the chances that may present themselves will bring in a just and dignifying peace that will prove acceptable to future generations and help us catch our breath for the first time and concentrate on basics and necessaries. Here, I hope that, through its march, Jordan will serve as an example for our Arab brothers.

[Tuwayni] Does Your Majesty see any link between the Madrid conference and the peace process, on one hand, and the Gulf war over Kuwait, on the other? Are we in the process of remaking the Middle East map?

[Husayn] Absolutely. I cannot delve into the first Gulf war. We were surprised by that war, and we stood by our brothers against a danger that we felt threatened the entire region. Regarding the second war, involving the occupation of Kuwait and subsequent developments, we were not a party to it, except to seek to rectify the mistake within an Arab framework and to spare the Arab nation catastrophes.

[Tuwayni] You were the conciliator who had to pay for his good offices.

[Husayn] Thanks be to God.

No doubt, all this has affected the situation, and the picture in the Arab homeland became completely different from what it was prior to these catastrophes, particularly the recent ones.

[Tuwayni] There is an attempt to create a new Middle East or peace in the Middle East. Of course, one does not expect a king to divulge secrets, but regarding the plans proposed—water sharing, the fate of oil, the future of foreign trade, which are issues that should have significantly been referred to in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement—is there any room for Arab planning that will assist us, while still holding negotiations with Israel, to pressure Israel into regaining our rights first, and second, help us make a better Middle East together? Perhaps, other Middle East states, such as Turkey and Iran, can join an advanced peace framework?

[Husayn] These are basic requirements. We (?may not) go far regarding the dimension you have mentioned. However, and on the Arab level and with regard to neighborliness, if we consider the water issue for example, this is an urgent issue. In other words, in the coming few years water will not meet man's needs if the current circumstances remain unchanged. These issues can only be handled as part of joint planning and action. Regarding other dimensions that you mentioned, such as economy, industry, trade, and integration, I do not see why the EC states managed to achieve what they have attained, despite the differences among them, whereas we, in the Arab world, cannot achieve something similar. If we dash all the hopes that lived in our conscience and hearts and abandon all the great ideas that occurred to us when we were younger, years ago. [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Tuwayni] I recall that I was in the United Nations when your majesty came directly from Jerusalem in 1967. You said something that I still remember. You said that Jerusalem is in your heart, and that we entered a war and lost it, but we would learn how to triumph. You said the Arab world and Jordan would reaffirm Jordan's existence as an advanced state and regain Jerusalem, though it fell for the first time in 1,300 years into the hands of a foreigner. Things have changed much, of course. However, one can note that Jordan has reached an advanced level. But the advancement I am talking about today is not only meant to make sure that this inheritance is present, but that the Arab man should also be a modern man. Taking Europe as an example—and your majesty was in Turkey—what states, other than Israel, such as Turkey, Iran, and other Islamic states, can join us in building an economic, cultural, and national power that will enable us to establish ourselves?

[Husayn] Sir, this is basic and very necessary. There is a response to this.

[Tuwayni] There is a response?

[Husayn] Definitely. Let us put things straight, if we, as officials live up to the required level, then we can do a great deal. If things remain the way they are, I think we, and this nation, will see many earthquakes and fierce storms. I am counting on the Arab individual. He might endure more than a camel, which is known for its endurance in this part of the Arab homeland and the world at large. It is about time for this Arab individual to enjoy his rights, just like the rest of people in this world. I do not think the Arab individual is dead, nor will he remain dormant forever. So how can we help this individual and work for him and for the future generations. This is the present challenge.

[Tuwayni] Your Majesty: You have spoken about the rights of the Arab individual and about democracy. Today there is a great deal of talk in the world about a universal democratic climate. Jordan is the only country in which we saw a real democratic experiment in light of challenges that face democracy. Among these challenges, we have revolutionary, leftist movements, and then Islamic fundamentalism. You, as a descendant of the House [of the Prophet Muhammad], have a stand toward this fundamentalism and toward the political dimension of Islam. Will the negative causes, under which we have lived because of the traces of the war, continue? What effect will they have on the apparent tug-of-war between democracy, of which Jordan is a symbol in the Arab world, and extremist movements that could cooperate with extremist Palestinians? Or do you expect a different political scene?

[Husayn] The political labor is not yet over. We have not reached a situation where things are stable in this region in a final manner. However, I can say that as a Muslim, Arab, and Hashemite, I accept the challenge to defend my religion and tolerant faith in the face of attempts to besmirch it, whether these attempts are made by some people out of ignorance of this part of the world, or pain, or for any other reason, or by others in this world. If we look at Jordan, for example, we have together formulated the National Charter. The Islamic movement here was part of this process, which yielded these good results. I think they, too, are facing the same challenge the way I am facing it, because we must work to present our reality in the face of all attempts at distortion here and there. We must prove that Islam is completely different from the way some people try to depict it for their own purposes. We have coexisted as one family in this country, as we have always been, by openness and having a progressive view of Islam. This is what I proposed earlier in the aftermath of the recent parliamentary elections. We should make Islam progress and not retreat.

Concerning the broader picture, the whole world is making progress. Borders and obstacles are being removed among peoples. These peoples meet together, work, and develop. The situation in our Arab world is abnormal. We cannot stop time, neither can we go backward. We must move forward. Unless we all realize this fact, our steps will falter. However, I am confident that we will overcome this stage and move on to wider horizons.

[Tuwayni] Concerning the Arab world, sir, if you allow me to ask a final question. A state like Iraq, for example, is fragmented and still in the situation it was in before. Also regarding the Arab world, which has become like separated islands as a result of foreign influence, for example, can there be talks among the Arab states through multilateral talks, or even before them, to present themselves to the world in a new form? Is it a realistic message or a message of hope that you want to end this interview with?

[Husayn] It is a message of hope.

[Tuwayni] What is your approach and message to the people who suffer. The people may have been delighted with the fact that the Palestinians have attained something. However, they wonder whether their role in peace has come, and what kind of peace?

[Husayn] If it is the issue of peace, then, as I said, we are at the beginning of the stage. This could be a great step, but we cannot judge it. Only time will give us the answer. I believe that this phase will be judged by its persons, symbols, and the coming generations. Peace is a necessity, a just and honorable peace, peace that restores to the Palestinians their rights on their national soil, peace which secures stability and security for all sides, and peace that secures the rights of the believers in God in Jerusalem, Muslims and Christians, and the rights of others. As for us in this Arab homeland, if we look at Iraq, we are with the people of Iraq, with the unity of Iraq, and with the cohesion of Iraq under the banners of freedom, democracy, political pluralism, and national reconciliation. We wish and hope that all this take place. I stress to you that I cannot describe my suffering as a result of what I hear concerning the conditions of our people and brothers there, the children, and all the people. As for us in the Arab homeland, are we going to continue in this way? There is no honor in this for any one of us. I hope that we will be able to overcome this current stage as soon as possible. I beseech Almighty God to enable us reach the thresholds of a new beginning toward a future that will be up to the level of this nation and what it deserves.

[Tuwayni] Maybe this is the best message, and may God preserve you.

[Husayn] May God bless you.

Al-Majali Said 'Muting' Criticism of Peace Deal

NC0209172993 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, Sept 2 (AFP)—The draft accord for Palestinian autonomy may benefit Jordan and boost its own peace negotiations with Israel, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Thursday [2 September], muting Amman's criticism of the deal.

Al-Majali said in an interview with AFP that the limited autonomy accord may be "beneficial for Jordan because it will allow Palestinians who became refugees in 1967 to return home."

According to the Jordanian authorities, 246,000 Palestinians arrived in Jordan in 1967.

Al-Majali also said Jordan is waiting for the accord to be signed before announcing details of its agenda for the future course of peace negotiations with Israel.

"We will (then) start serious negotiations with Israel," he said.

But the prime minister echoed complaints from King Husayn that the Palestine Liberation Organization had

not consulted Jordan about its secret deal with Israel, even though Jordan was mentioned in the document.

Jordan "was not aware of the details of the draft accord between the Palestinians and Israel," he said.

Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—the three remaining Arab parties in the peace talks—have all complained that the PLO had struck a separate deal behind their backs.

An Israeli official said Wednesday that Israel and the Palestinians will negotiate on how many Palestinians are to be allowed to return to homes they fled in the 1967 Middle East war.

Such negotiations will begin after the signing of the autonomy accord, said the official who requested anonymity.

Palestinian Refugees Reportedly Number 1.8 Million

JN0309075493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Report by Maha al-Sha'ir carried within the "News at Ten;" passages within quotation marks are recorded comments by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs]

[Text] Jordan has the largest proportion of refugees in the world relative to its population. More than a million Palestinians fled to Jordan after the two Arab-Israeli wars in 1948 and in 1967.

"The number of those people who came to Jordan right now as it stands is 1.8 millions, which constitute about 40 percent of the Jordan population."

Moreover, in the period since 1968, Israel has prevented more than 58,000 Palestinian families from returning to their home in the occupied territories. These Palestinians failed to return within a period of three years and, therefore, Israel considers them relocated and automatically withdrew their citizenship rights.

"People are not allowed to return to their homes. Those people are not security hazards; they had good reasons to leave. They left the occupied territories upon the full agreement and volition of the Israeli authorities."

Jordan now warns Palestinians with Israeli permits not to exceed their legal stay in Jordan so as not to lose their citizenship rights. Many also fear that the new Jewish settlers will take their homes. While the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks are proceeding, one of the main issues being discussed is family reunification and the right of the displaced Palestinians to return to their home. So far, only a fraction of the tens of thousands have been allowed to return.

"The Israelis should realize that they cannot adopt measures which would allow them—because of their control of the bridges—to allow more people to leave the occupied territories and come to Jordan. Jordan has already taken more than its fair share of this particular problem."

Meanwhile, as progress on the Gaza-Jericho First is moving forward for Palestinian self-rule, many are hoping that this proposal would lead some Palestinians back to their land.

[Begin recording of remarks by University of Jordan Professor Siri Nasir] I feel the initial stage would be that many more will be going in rather than out of the occupied territories. [end recording]

However, some fear that if this proposal is not carefully studied along with the final status to be negotiated, many stand to lose their chance to return forever.

Just behind these mountains [video shows shots of local landscape] is the West Bank, which, to Palestinians for years in exile, the possibility to see their home again has been a dream. But now many are hoping, with the Gaza-Jericho First, this dream will become reality. This is Maha al-Sha'ir reporting for "News at Ten."

Minister Denies Statements to Israeli Media

JN0309121893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has stated that he has not made any statements to a special correspondent for any Israeli newspaper or to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in particular, in Amman or anywhere else in the world.

The information minister said that the Israeli radio must stop fabricating news and sources after losing its credibility twice in 24 hours.

Al-'Ahd Party Official Supports Gaza-Jericho Plan

JN0209131293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Sep 93 p 10

[By Sa'd Silawi]

[Text] Amman—The secretary general of al-'Ahd [Covenant] Party, Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, Wednesday [1 September] dismissed fears expressed by some people that the so-called "Gaza-Jericho First" option poses dangers to Jordan.

"Though we have not received details of the agreements, we believe that it would not lead to mass migration of Palestinians to Jordan as opponents of the proposal believes," said Mr. al-Majali in a statement to the JORDAN TIMES.

"On the contrary, I believe that this step is an achievement—burying the idea of creating a 'greater Israel' and an alternate homeland for the Palestinians," he said.

"Since the start of the peace process in Madrid, the Jordanian negotiating team has been reaffirming the

Palestinian people's right to establish their state and determine their future like other nations on earth," Mr. al-Majali said.

Noting that Jordan has reached preliminary agreement on a common agenda with Israel in the peace process, Mr. al-Majali said that the Kingdom had made it clear that it was suspending progress on its own track with the Israelis until progress has been achieved along the Palestinian-Israeli track and the other Arab-Israeli tracks.

"Our party accepts only what is acceptable to the Palestinians and we will display understanding of their position," Mr. al-Majali said.

"Al-'Ahd Party indeed can only support any step or move that would ensure the return of the occupied Palestinian land and the achievement of a just peace acceptable to the future generations," he said.

Noting that the Gaza-Jericho option has indicated the lack of coordination among the Arab parties, Mr. al-Majali said that such a situation should not adversely affect inter-Arab relations.

"Al-'Ahd Party calls on the Arab countries to transcend this predicament for the sake of safegarding the higher national interests," he said.

"Our party views with optimism the Gaza-Jericho First option and the subsequent self-rule in the occupied Palestinian lands, and consuders it as a step towards ending the suffering of the Palestinian people who have been living under the yoke of occupation for so long," Mr. al-Majali said.

Columnist Defends Plan, Welcomes Withdrawal

JN0209153493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Sep 93 pp 26, 25

[From the "Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan Hattab: "Jericho First a Step in the Right Direction...Welcome to Withdrawal"]

[Excerpts] I think all that is happening in the Palestinian arena will be important and serious, and the time has come for the creation of the national Palestinian project, which will start with Gaza and Jericho, and will then grow to include the Palestinian land that was occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. This project will then develop with the passage of time.

For the first time, talks began in a practical and substantive manner about the creation of the national Palestinian project, and it can be said that the Madrid road is leading to a destination, that the 10 rounds of talks have not been in vain, as some people thought, and that the 1000-mile journey begins with one step. [passage omitted]

Before the announcement of the agreement, which stipulates the return of thousands of Palestinians to their homeland Palestine, warnings were voiced about depopulation and transfer [of Palestinians from occupied territories], and some people were practicing one-upmanship concerning the intelligence of the Jordanian decisionmaker and his concern and vigilance. But now, as the agreement allows for the return of hundreds of thousands from here to the West bank and not vice versa, why are these warnings still being voiced?

I think that those who continue to peddle pesaimism and fear are dealing with strife and confrontations that exists only in their minds; and those who suggest that wars, instability, and failure will take place, shedding tears for tendentious objectives are under an illusion. They are not wagering on the will of a people who remained steadfast, offered sacrifices, and learned that there is no alternative for their homeland and that there is nothing like the homeland. The crises taught this people to rise above differences and hatred, and to return to build their freedom, independence, and their right to self-determination.

I am optimistic and I am wagering on the support of the unique Jordanian leadership for the Palestine question and the Palestinian people. At the same time, I am wagering on the intifadah people, their awareness, and their adherence to their legitimate national rights. Welcome to withdrawal from any inch.

King Husayn, Queen Nur To Visit China 13-16 Sep

JN0209145893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has announced that in response to the invitation of His Excellency PRC President Jiang Zemin, Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur will pay an official, cordial visit to the PRC from 13-16 September 1993. During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with President Jiang Zemin aimed at bolstering bilateral relations and cooperation. The two leaders will also exchange views on regional and international issues of common interest.

Al-Majali Confers With Lebanese Minister on Ties

JN3108151593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Lebanese Minister of Agriculture 'Adil Qirtas at his office this morning.

Talks during the meeting dealt with facilitating agricultural exchange between the two countries, and activating trade cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples in implementation of the trade agreement concluded between the two countries.

Dr. al-Majali reiterated Jordan's support for, and its readiness to extend assistance to, the people of south

Lebanon, to provide them with medicines and cement, and allocate some university scholarships to Lebanese students.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the progress in bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

Industry Minister Returns From Visit to Syria

JN0109162393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Bassam al-Sakit has returned to Amman following a four-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Austrian President To Begin Official Visit 4 Sep

JN0209145593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Austrian President Dr. Thomas Klestil will begin a two-day official visit to the Kingdom the day after tomorrow, Saturday [4 September], at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. During the visit, the two leaders will hold talks on a number of regional and international issues of common interest, particularly the Middle East peace process, and cooperation between the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Agrees To Establish Ties With Slovenia

JN2808181793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers today agreed to establish diplomatic relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Slovenia at the level of nonresident ambassador. The Council also decided to authorize the Jordanian ambassador in Rome to sign an agreement on establishing bilateral relations on behalf of the Jordanian Government.

Study Links Local Food Output, Trade Imbalance

JN3108112793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—A recent study on food supplies and Jordan's food production conducted by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has revealed that low food production in Jordan is responsible for poverty and a below normal rate of per capita share of food stuffs.

Mohammad Shahatit, head of the RSS Industrial Studies Department, supervised the survey which included people from various regions and the southern governorates of Jordan.

The results revealed that an individual's food energy intake has dropped from 3,460 calories in 1985 to 3,000 calories in 1992 as a result of reduced local food production.

Over the past two years Jordanians have lowered their consumption of meat, rice, sugar, olive oil, vegetable and fruit, according to the survey.

The Finance Ministry has requested that the RSS determine the effects of low food production on the country's balance of trade, Dr. Shahatit said.

The low rate, he said, has had adverse effects on Jordan's balance of trade and payments and added a financial burden on the national economy by causing the cost of foreign imported products to rise.

Jordan is self-sufficient in products like table eggs, tomatoes, cauliflower, eggplant, cabbage, and cucumber, but the Kingdom still has to import sugar, rice, tea, coffee, legumes and fish.

As an example of the burden on the balance of trade deficits, Dr. Shahatit said that the trade deficit stood at JD [Jordanian Dinar] 761 million in 1985, but rose to JD 1,008.6 million in 1990.

Noting that the population in the southern regions of Jordan suffers more from poverty, Dr. Shahatit said that the survey reaffirmed earlier studies by the Ministry of Social Development which placed the incomes of JD 40 in 1978 and JD 68 in 1992 within the absolute poverty bracket.

Al-Hirawi Raps PLO Move, Vows Unity With Syria

NC0309062293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphasized that Lebanon is fast moving toward restoring normalcy. Continuing his campaign against the Palestinian unilateral agreement with Israel, he said: During their media war, they cast doubt on Lebanon's Arabism, and now, after they have signed a unilateral agreement, we have proof that we are more loyal to the legitimate Arab rights.

In a speech inaugurating the Third National Conference of the Dentists Association, al-Hirawi said: We will remain united with President al-Asad, standing shoulder to shoulder to preserve our rights and Arab dignity. Faithfulness requires us to proceed hand in hand toward the region's peace with the leader who helped us to consolidate our internal peace.

Defense Minister on Dangers of 'Separate Deals'

NC0209175893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said: It is a grave mistake for us to run after separate deals, because they are dangerous, especially with a state like Israel. He added that any agreement not coordinated with the cordon states is a breach of Arab solidarity and that separate deals harm this solidarity.

In an interview with the PRESS NEWS AGENCY [Wakalat al-Anba' al-Sahafiyah], he said: We support whatever the Palestinian nation wants, but what some people in this nation want might lead to a conflict within the Palestinian nation.

Asked what he expects the 11th round of negotiations on the Lebanese track to achieve, he said he is not optimistic, because the Israeli prime minister's proposals are negative and obstructionist conditions that are rejected by Lebanon.

Dallul affirmed that the Lebanese Army will never clash with the resistance, because it is carrying out a national and pan-Arab duty for Lebanon. He said that the Army entered areas under the control of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon because some feared that military operations might lead to internal problems for the Lebanese. He noted that there is no resistance in the areas held by the Army, a measure that has been agreed upon.

Peace Delegation Head Sees 'New Ideas' Ahead

NC0309064893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] At the end of the meeting between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Washington yesterday, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said the head of the Israeli team stressed that he submitted a proposal to Lebanon to study two months ago. He stated that the head of the Israeli delegation seems to forget that the negotiations resumed on Tuesday and that the questions put to them on their working paper and views were also essential. He gave us a response that reflected what we consider to be the basic Israeli position. We will continue to debate that paper to see whether it provides a compromise; they should convince us of this.

Shammas said there was Israeli talk that the Israeli paper emphasizes Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. He said the best expression of this position can be achieved through Israeli commitment to total withdrawal from our occupied land. This would be the beginning of a serious breakthrough on the Lebanese-Israeli track. We must continue our negotiations and propose new ideas to each other; I believe we will do so this Tuesday.

SLA, Israel Return Fire After 'Terrorists' Attack

TA0209172893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] In the southern Lebanon security zone, terrorists attacked South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions with RPG and machine-gun fire. The attack took place in the Sujud area. There is no report of casualties.

The Israeli and South Lebanese Armies returned the fire.

South Villages Reportedly Shelled

NC0309082293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces bombarded the villages of Kunin, Qabrikha, and Shaqra with rockets and machine-gun fire for an hour this morning. The forces raked the area extensively with machine guns. The agent Antoine Lahd forces shelled the villages facing Tallusah.

Security sources said 12 rockets fell in the occupied border strip area at dawn today, adding that they came from the occupation forces. There are no other reports on the incident.

India

Minister Protests Pakistani Attack on Parade in U.S.

BK2808075893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] India has asked the United States to take strong action against the Pakistani elements responsible for the recent attack on an Indian procession in New York to mark the Independence Day. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, told the Lok Sabha today that the Indian Consulate officials have also taken up the matter with the mayor and commissioner of police of New York. He said according to available information, a person of Pakistani origin, Mohammad Ashraf, who shot and critically injured an active participant in the procession, has been arrested. The minister said the government has protested to the United States on the incident over which the entire Indian community in New York is extremely concerned. Mr. Bhatia was responding when Mr. M.L. Khurana, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], raised the issue during the zero hour and wanted to know the action taken by the government in this regard.

Further on Pakistani 'Hooliganism'

BK0109160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] India has taken up with the British and U.S. Governments the incidents of hooliganism by Pakistani elements in London on Monday [31 August] and in New York on the 15th of last month. In London, a limited overs charity cricket match between India and Pakistan was called off on Monday night following the mob frenzy by unruly Pakistani elements and the Indian flag was apparently burned.

In New York, Pakistani elements had shot at and critically wounded an Indian citizen during the Independence Day celebrations. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the sustained and vicious Pakistani propaganda against India led to these violent and shameful incidents.

Group Urges Countering Pakistani 'Disinformation'

BK3008150993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir National Front International has said that India should counter Pakistan's disinformation campaign on the Kashmir issue. The Denmark-based organization asked New Delhi to fight for declaring Pakistan a terrorist state for its subversive activities in the valley. Addressing a gathering in Jammu yesterday, the convenor of the organization, Mr. Shadilal Sharma, said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence has floated 13 organizations across the world to spread the disinformation campaign to paint India as a violator of human rights.

Six prominent intellectuals have called upon responsible and patriotic citizens to condemn Pakistan for engineering atrocities in Kashmir. In a statement in New Delhi today, they asked the government to take firm measures to crush insurgency in Kashmir.

Kashmiris Reportedly Killed by 'Occupation Forces'

BK3108150793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian authorities today barred the faithfuls from taking out processions to celebrate the 'Id-i-Miladunnabi Sallallaho Alaihe Wa Alehi Wasallam [celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him]. Reports say troops deployed to block the main road prevented the movement of the people on this sacred occasion.

Meanwhile, another 15 people have been martyred by Indian occupation forces. Eight of them were shot dead near Sangrom. Clashes have also been reported from Kupwara, Qazigund, Badgam, and Sopor. Six Indian troops were killed when mojahedin opened fire on them during siege and search operations in the southern region of the valley.

Important Factors in Indo-U.S. Relations Noted

BK2808082893 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English July 93 pp 7, 8

[From an article by Major General (Retd) Afsir Karim under the rubric "IDR Comment"]

[Excerpt] On May 5, in a report, presented to the US Congress, on progress of regional non-proliferation in South Asia, President Clinton made the following significant observations.

—The main impediment which comes in the way of the regional agreement was the "Persistent level of tension and consequent distrust between India and Pakistan arising from domestic political constraints, popular emotions fed by memories of partition and three wars, and the unresolved dispute over Kashmir."

—Both India and Pakistan "feel pressured by domestic opinion to defer actions aimed at improving bilateral relations or dealing constructively with bilateral problems."

—"India's latent security concerns about China are a major obstacle to gaining New Delhi's support for any regional discussion in view of India's belief that Chinese nuclear and missiles programmes also must be taken into consideration."

—India believes that "China does not approach Indo-Pakistan regional security and proliferation issues as a disinterested party."

—The non-proliferation objective of the USA in South Asia was "Firstly to cap, then over a period of time reduce, and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery."

—The USA seeks "to help create a climate in which each country's sense of security is enhanced through tension reduction and confidence building measures and where both India and Pakistan perceive distinct advantages in rejecting weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile delivery system, and recognise the disadvantages inherent in their possession.

Later in May '93, during a visit to New Delhi, Mr John R Mallot, the US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State further elaborated on US policies in South Asia. Mr Mallot spelt out the main thrust of US policies in forthright and clear terms. His public address, however, was like a political sermon. Reduced to bare essentials, the main perception of the US administration on various issues are:

—External pressure by the US can not prevent India or Pakistan from going ahead with their nuclear weapons' programme. The initiative must come from within.

—India and Pakistan should consider unilateral stoppage of production of fissile nuclear material and agree to a regional test ban treaty.

—A regional non-proliferation policy has to take into account India's concern vis-a-vis China's nuclear and missile programme, besides the threat perceptions of New Delhi and Islamabad.

—The US administration considers regional security, tension reduction, confidence building measures, arms control, and resolution of outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, as important issues requiring immediate attention.

—The USA considers Kashmir a disputed territory on both sides of the line of control.

—The Kashmir issue should be settled peacefully under the Simla agreement, taking the views of the Muslim and non-muslim Kashmiris into consideration. The USA is of the view that Pakistan may be providing official support to some militants active in India.

—The USA is highly concerned about the violation of Human rights by the Security Forces and the terrorists in Kashmir. A dialogue with the people without encouraging the militants may be helpful.

—India and Pakistan should sign an agreement not to provide support to militants who commit terrorist acts on others' territory.

—India and the US should move beyond the stage of "posturing and rehtoric" to work together in realising the possibilities which lie ahead.

—The US administration considers democracy, human rights, narcotic control, population planning, the environment and refugee problems as important global issues.

—The US was neither seeking a strategic relationship with India nor a relation centred on arms sales. A cooperative military relationship for peacekeeping may, however, be expanded.

—The USA will continue to encourage India to implement economic reforms and creating a friendly climate for trade and investment.

A close examination of various US policy statements would indicate that South Asia is still of marginal interest to the US policy makers. Their primary concern seems to be to prevent an Indo-Pak war in which nuclear weapons may be used. Though the source of Indo-Pak tensions has been well understood by the US policy makers, the extent of Indo-Pak antagonism and Pakistan's quest of 'strategic depth' within the subcontinent have been missed; the realities on the ground have been brushed aside in an attempt to appear even-handed.

Mr Mallot was forthright and frank but he seemed to fight shy of calling a spade a spade when it came to Pak sponsored terrorism. One would expect the US administration to move beyond "posturing and rhetoric" on Pakistan sponsored insurgent-terrorism in J and K [Jammu & Kashmir]. The following factors should be noted in this context by the US policy makers:

—The continued and sustained sponsorship of insurgency and terrorism by Pakistan in Kashmir is the immediate and currently the main cause of hostility between India and Pakistan. This situation can lead to a war between the two countries if timely international pressure is not brought to bear on Pakistan to stop sponsoring insurgent-terrorism in Kashmir.

—In the present circumstances no negotiations—step-by-step or otherwise—no confidence building measure, can make headway regardless of any "push or prod", from the USA meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan can take place only if Pakistan stops supporting armed militants in Kashmir with men and material. [sentence as published]

—Any outside interference, however well meaning, can only complicate the Kashmir issue further. Any attempt to force the pace of events or redraw the contours of J&K would cause greater turbulance in the subcontinent, and Kashmir itself.

—Although Pakistan would like to avoid a conventional war with India, it is not ready to live in peace with India till the Kashmir problem is settled to her satisfaction.' In the present scheme of things, Pakistan would continue sponsoring terrorism and training

armed insurgents with the hope that India would be forced to quit the Valley of Kashmir under international pressure.

—The battle for Kashmir has a major 'strategic content'. It is an attempt by Pakistan to gain strategic high ground in the subcontinent; it is not merely an ethnic or religious confrontation.

—Peace can only return if Pakistan stops competing for strategic space within the subcontinent, through insurgent terrorism and use of force. [passage omitted]

Differences With U.S. Over Nuclear, Other Issues Viewed

BK3108123193 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam, associate editor of NATIONAL HERALD]

[Text] Over a large area, Indo-U.S. relations have been traditionally warm and friendly. These ties have been marked by a regard for democratic values, cooperation in education, science, technology, and other constructive fields and warm personal relations to which an influential Indian community in the United States has made its contribution. The launching of India's economic liberalization policies has meant it is deepening business and investment cooperation. The broad framework of relations between the two countries is friendly and cordial. That does not mean the absence of problems, which do crop up now and again.

The global views that the United States takes, particularly to security, strategic, and defense interests have sometimes tended to pay scant regard to India's vital concerns. It is as a result of this approach that differences have developed on issues like nuclear nonproliferation and missile development. The fact that the United States is a leading industrialized power and India is in the ranks of developing nations has caused inevitable strains over international trade issues coming up in the world fora. The efforts to sort out such differences at the bilateral and interantional level, however, have been marked by a deep understanding of each other's interests and viewpoints. There is a certain continuity in the dealings between nations over various matters of mutual interest. But a change of administration necessarily brings about a qualitative change in the handling of matters at the political level. The government headed by Mr. Narasimha Rao assumed office over two years ago. But Mr. Rao, as a senior cabinet minister, has been associated with India's foreign policy for several years.

In the United States, the democratic administration of Mr. Bill Clinton took office this year. The visit of a senior State Department official, Mr. John Malott, to India earlier this year and the latest visit of our foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, to Washington were important and useful exercises at the diplomatic level to place Indo-U.S. relations on an even key.

India recognizes that it is legitimate for the United States as a Superpower to have an interest in development in various parts of the world. As Mr. Dixit stated in Washington, in this respect the U.S. interest in subcontinental affairs is understandable. In the long history of Indo-Pakistan relations, however, the U.S. position has not always been understanding of the vital security and national interests of India. On Kashmir, India's position has been clear. It concerns India's sovereignty and it is not a matter for international interference. Mr. Dixit made it clear in Washington that India is against mediation by the U.S. or any other country on the Kashmir issue. If the U.S. wants to use its goodwill to promote confidence-building measures between India and Pakistan and reduce tension, that would be welcome.

The current differences between India and the United States relate to nuclear nonproliferation, the impact of so-called intellectual property rights on trade, human rights, missile development, and the so-called dual use theory propagated by the United States to deny transfer of technology in certain areas. All these must have figured in the exchanges which Mr. Dixit had in Washington. The recent U.S. sanctions to pressurize Russia from selling cryogenic engine technology for India's space program has hurt Indian sentiments more than what possibly would have been imagined in Washington. For India, it is a question of development of science and technology. Anyone with a knowledge of India's policies and actions would not seriously doubt the peaceful nature of (?engine) development. An important aspect of Indo-U.S. relations relates to removal of doubts and misapprehensions which can lead to such unfortunate decisions. The United States possibly sensed the deep hurt of India over the action and tried to make out that it was not solely directed against India. It announced that trade sanctions have been imposed on China and Pakistan in relation to the missile deal. The two issues are entirely different. The U.S. will have to be more understanding of the fundamental aspects of India's policy in the interest of promoting the friendly ties.

Communist Party Criticizes Troops Dispatch to Somalia

BK3008130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] has criticized the dispatch of Indian troops to Somalia for peacekeeping operations by the United Nations. In a press release in New Delhi today, it alleged that the United States is using the UN to fight against one particular group in Somalia to help another group. It said this is not consistent with India's foreign policy.

West Bengal Information Minister Resigns

BK3109164393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The West Bengal State Secretariat of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] today recommended to the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, to accept

the resignation of the minister for information and cultural affairs, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya. Addressing a press conference in Calcutta this evening, the state committee secretary of the party, Mr. Sailen Dasgupta, said the party did not like the manner in which Mr. Bhattacharya resigned. However, Mr. Dasgupta declined to comment whether Mr. Bhattacharya's action amounts to indiscipline or not. In reply to a question, Mr. Dasgupta admitted that the party will suffer due to Mr. Bhattacharya's resignation, but it will soon overcome its loss.

It may be recalled that the State Secretariat of the CPI-M in its meeting in Calcutta this morning had accepted Mr. Bhattacharya's letter seeking permission to resign from the state cabinet. Meanwhile, the state cabinet has been convened in Calcutta tomorrow to discuss the issue arising out of Mr. Bhattacharya's resignation.

Exports to China Estimated To Reach $800 Million

BK3108154793 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 27 Aug 93 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, 27 August—It has been estimated that India's exports to the PRC will reach $800 million by the end of next year. A group led by Govind Hari Singhania, which visited the PRC to study the prospects for launching business ventures and making investments in that country, has since returned. Mr. Singhania told newsmen:

At present, India has been exporting goods worth $400 million to the PRC. The PRC has imposed several restrictions on imports. It, however, has been estimated that India's exports to that country will double by the end of next year. In other words, it will increase to the tune of $600 [figure as published]. A campaign giving details about the goods being exported by India to the PRC should be launched in that country.

The PRC has evinced keen interest in importing iron ore on a massive scale as one of the goods from India. Last year, it imported 25 million tons of iron ore from India. It is expected to increase to the tune of $90 million next year. The PRC has been importing two-wheeled vehicles as well as cars from various countries. Hence, there is great scope for India to export in this field also.

Accord Signed With German Companies on Power Project

BK2708124993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] An agreement to set up a 7,000-crore-rupee integrated lignite mining and power project was signed between the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation and four German companies in Madras today. The project is to be set up at Jayankondam in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu, the biggest of its kind in Asia. It is planned to generate 1,500 megawatt power using lignite from the captive mine at Jayankondam.

Foreign Investors Show Interest in 46 Power Projects

BK3108102393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Twenty-eight foreign investors have shown interest in 46 power projects having a capacity of 25,000 megawatt across the country following liberalization in the power sector. This was disclosed by the union energy minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, in Madras yesterday. The minister stressed the need to integrate Indian economy with the global economy to ensure free flow of capital.

Iran

Velayati, Aliyev Discuss Azerbaijani-Armenian Conflict

NC0309065693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called for halting the Armenian military onslaughts against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, convening political negotiations, and consolidating international boundaries between the two countries.

Dr. Velayati was speaking to Geydar Aliyev, acting president of Azerbaijan, who called him last night. He stressed that Iran categorically opposes all kinds of aggression against Azerbaijani territory.

During the telephone conversation with Dr. Velayati, Aliyev explained the latest position on the Azerbaijani-Armenian front. In view of the crucial situation, he called on Iran to reiterate to the Armenian Government the need to halt its aggression against Azerbaijan.

More on Velayati's Contacts With Aliyev, Turkey's Cetin

LD0309122593 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran Thursday [2 September] renewed its call for an immediate end to the military aggressions of Armenian forces on the Republic of Azerbaijan. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a telephone conversation with Azeri acting President Geydar Aliyev Thursday night, underlined Iran's opposition to any form of aggression on Azerbaijan territory. Velayati also called for the initiation of diplomatic negotiations as well as for stabilization of international borders.

During the conversation, Aliyev briefed Velayati on latest developments in Armenistan-Azerbaijan [as received] conflict.

The Azeri official pointed to the critical situation in his country and underscored the need for Iran's emphatic notifications to Armenian officials.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, also in a recent telephone conversation with Velayati, had exchanged views on latest developments in Caucasus as well as on ways for cooperation among neighbouring states to deal with crisis in the region.

Russian Official Notes 'Concern' Over Karabakh Fighting

LD3108164993 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—A senior Russian official underlined the significant role Iran played in the region and said his country is willing to cooperate with Tehran to find a solution to Karabakh conflict. Director General of the West and South Asian Department at Russian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Kotov made the remark in a meeting with Iran's interim Charge d'Affaires Majid Qahremani, Monday [30 August].

Expressing concern over recent developments in Karabakh, he said Russia had voiced its concern over unfulfilled Resolutions 822 and 853 of the U.N. Security Council in this regard. The Russian official noted that his country had condemned military attacks on Karabakh and called on the head of the U.N. Security Council to rely on his personal influence on the Armenian side for solving the problem.

During the meeting, Qahremani presented a message by the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, addressed to the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on current developments in Karabakh.

Republic To Set Up Camp in Azerbaijan To Help Refugees

LD3108164393 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Khoda Afarin (East Azerbaijan Prov.), Aug. 31, IRNA—Iran is to set up a camp on the soil of Azerbaijan Republic to provide refugees fleeing the Armenian offensive with relief supplies. The decision to set up the camp was taken at a meeting of Azeri officials and representatives of Iran's East Azerbaijan governor-general's office, at this border town, today.

The site of the camp and way of depatching relief supplies to Azerbaijani refugees were also discussed at the meeting. A participant in the meeting said at the end of the session that the said camp would be set up on Azeri soil near Khoda Afarin in line with Iran's policy of helping Azerbaijani refugees.

UNHCR To Send Aid for Azerbaijani Refugees in Country

LD2708113893 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Khoda Afarin, East Azarbaijan Prov., Aug. 27, (IRNA)—A cargo of basic goods for Azerbaijani refugees would be sent to Iran, said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to Tehran, Hitoshi Mise, here Thursday.

Hitoshi, talking to IRNA after inspecting Aslandouz borderline here, described the present condition of Azeri refugees at Iran- Azerbaijan border as very exceptional.

He said the UNHCR office in Tehran was only responsible towards those Azeri refugees who had crossed the border into Iran.

Others who have not entered the Iranian territory yet were not regarded refugees, he added.

He noted that the UNHCR aid would be sent to Iran via its office in Turkey but did not elaborate on its contents.

Western news agencies, quoting top ranking UNHCR officials, had reported earlier that some aid had been sent to Iran for the refugees but local officials denies these reports.

Paper Objects to Armenian Exhibition in Tehran

NC0109182193 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Commerce Ministry Should Answer"]

[Text] Simultaneous with the consecutive and ceaseless acts of aggression by the Armenian Armed Forces against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, an exclusive exhibition devoted to the industries of Armenia was inaugurated in Tehran. This occurred when only last week the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement warning Armenia against its continued aggression and declared that Iran would not remain indifferent in this regard. Our foreign minister visited Azerbaijan after the statement was issued and declared Iran's support of Azerbaijan.

The permission to convene such an exclusive trade exhibition on Armenian industries in such circumstances, especially since Armenia has not heeded Iran's warning and continues its aggression as before, was a very irresponsible act and the Commerce Ministry should be made to answer for it.

It is true that the program for this exhibition was formulated before the new commerce minister was appointed. However, he could have taken a revolutionary step and revoked permission for the exhibition. This would have preempted the blatant lack of coordination between our foreign policy and the performance of the Commerce Ministry.

Even now, although it would be quite belated, we can discontinue the exhibition as a serious warning to the aggressor Armenian officials. Similar actions should also be taken banning exchange of athletic teams and art delegations to confirm that Iran's stance on the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan is not limited to slogans and statements, but is accompanied by practical measures.

The general public does not expect our officials to remain indifferent toward the Armenian aggression against the territory of a neighboring Islamic country and expects them to take a serious approach in the various practical fields. This is the religious and humanitarian obligation of Iran's system, and those who violate it should be taken to task for doing so.

Palestinian Figures Tell Iranian Envoy of PLO 'Treachery'

NC0309064293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Three leaders of Palestinian groups met the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus yesterday and discussed developments in the region, especially the PLO-Israel accord.

The Central News Unit, reporting from Damascus, says that in the separate meetings with our charge d'affaires, Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Khalid al-Fahum, the leader of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, and Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the leader of Fatah-the Uprising, condemned the latest action by the PLO. They described it as blatant treachery to the Palestinian Muslim nation's many years of struggle and jihad against the usurping Zionists.

The PLO and Tel Aviv recently reached an accord on limited autonomy in the Gaza-Jericho region.

Jannati: Nations Must Reconsider Ties With U.S.

LD0309104593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] On the eve of the blessed birthday of the Seal of the Prophets. Muhammad, may peace be upon him and his scion, and on the occasion of Unity Week, the unity-inspiring Friday prayers were staged with utmost magnificence throughout the country with the extensive participation of the faithful masses.

In Tehran, the Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati. In his first sermon, the provisional Friday prayers leader of Tehran expressed his congratulations for the blessed birthday occasions of His Eminence Muhammad, may peace be upon him and his scion, and His Eminence Imam Sadiq [the Shiite 6th Imam], may peace be upon him. He then described highlights of the life and deeds of the great savior of mankind, the eminent prophet, and also His Eminence Imam Sadiq.

In his second sermon, Ayatollah Jannati referred to Government Week, during which the memory of beloved martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar was commemorated. He said: In the Islamic system, maintaining popular support must be placed at the top of the government's list. The basis for all works is serving the people and gaining their satisfaction.

He then stressed Islam's guidelines on employment of committed individuals, and on general supervision over the execution of tasks. He also emphasized the necessity for establishing a spiritual aura in work places.

The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran continued his second sermon by referring to Unity Week. He said: Unity under the auspice of Islam constitutes an urgent need of today's human society. He added: Atrocities that are being committed against Muslims in various parts of the world, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and Azerbaijan, prove that such a need exists.

Moreover, condemning conciliatory schemes planned against the world Muslims, he referred to the Palestine issue, and the agreement between the PLO and Tel Aviv. He said: At present the world of Islam is subjected to an all-round onslaught by enemies, and the United States' hand is clearly visible amid all conspiracies and atrocities. The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran pointed to the United States' moves in various parts of the world, and invited world countries to view and reconsider their relations with the United States.

Habibi Meets Japanese Envoy, Discusses Anti-Iran Propaganda

LD3008165693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] In a meeting with First Vice President Hasan Habibi today, Japan's ambassador in Tehran described Iran's role in establishing peace in the region and in the world as very important and called for the greatest possible expansion of friendly ties between Iran and Japan and an increase in the two countries' commercial exchange.

The Japanese ambassador also referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance on various international issues and spoke of the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts toward development, reconstruction, and the peaceful use of nuclear technology as successful, adding the following: Iran's stance makes us more confident that Iran will use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Habibi expressed gratitude for the stances adopted by the Japanese Government in its relations with Iran and expressed the hope that the two countries' historic ties would strengthen further in the future.

Referring to the poisonous propaganda by some governments against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Habibi said: We believe that these countries are carrying out this propaganda against us to prevent Iran from making scientific and industrial progress; of course, they will not succeed.

Commentary Views Tension in U.S.-PRC Ties

LD2808185093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The imposition of new U.S. economic sanctions against the PRC, along with Beijing's threat to leave the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, have caused new tensions in Washington-Beijing relations.

Although five months have passed since the Democrats came to power in the United States, relations with the PRC have not yet formed a distinct trend and the Clinton's Administration has not yet put forward a clear policy on the PRC.

For this reason and for some time there has been confusion in U.S. foreign policy, in particular with regard to the PRC, which for several decades has been in ideological and political conflict with the United States and is now one of the biggest countries opposed to the U.S. new order.

The PRC opposition to the U.S. new order, the history of conflict with Washington, and Beijing's cooperation with Third World countries—in particular on arms-related matters—are among the most important obstacles to good Chinese-U.S. relations.

In reality the recent U.S. threat regarding the imposition of greater trade sanctions against the PRC, if the report on missile exports to Pakistan proves correct, has intensified the crisis between the two countries.

According to U.S. claims, there is evidence of PRC missile shipments to Pakistan which are not technically governed by the regulations on missile technological control. The PRC Government has denied these allegations and has called on the Clinton Administration to restrain itself from aggravating the issue.

Political observers believe that, despite U.S. justifications of this decision and also the earlier pursuit of the Chinese ship Yinhe, the ultimate aim of that country is to have a greater presence in the current critical situation in South Asia.

This is even more so since the United States is forced to somehow maintain its presence in other parts of Asia to be able to facilitate its efforts to reduce Chinese influence following the closure of its military base in the Philippines and the reduced importance of the U.S. presence in South Korea.

The PRC's resistance to the results of the dismemberment of the former Soviet Union and the collapse of the eastern block emphasizes that Chinese socialism is of a different indigenous character to that of the former Soviet Union and for that reason will be able to survive.

This issue has been a source of concern for Washington: that in the long term Beijing will find the ability, with the support of the countries of the south, to stand against the U.S. new order.

Therefore the United States is trying to pressure the Chinese leaders to introduce market reforms and to respect Western political and ideological views.

Without doubt, the PRC, with its great potential, will not easily surrender to the United States, because that would damage the credit and honor of that large and important country. Furthermore, the PRC is moving toward economic reform, and it needs secure foreign markets. Thus, if its trade with the outside world is under the influence of Washington's policy, there would naturally be difficulties in finding markets and maintaining trade relations.

Presently there is this question: Who will be more hurt by the recent intensification of differences between United States and the PRC, which has led to trade sanctions against Beijing? Observers belive that U.S. companies producing and installing satellites will be the main losers from the sanctions. The substantial sales of U.S. satellites to the PRC and the PRC's agreement to launch U.S.-built satellites means that this sector of the U.S. market will be affected.

Today the U.S. companies and their bosses are concerned about the loss of the one billion potential customers in the Chinese market, because they think the imposition of the recent sanctions would distract Chinese attention from the United States to Europe and Japan—particularly since Japan recently announced its decision to further strengthen relations with Beijing. Furthermore, the developing countries prefer to obtain their goods from the PRC, thus allowing the PRC to solve the problems arising from the loss of sales to the United States.

Taking into account the present situation and the significant tension created in relations between Washington and Beijing, the following question has been put forward in the political circles in the West as well as in the Asia-Pacific area: Is the intensification of the crisis in relations between the PRC and United States the prelude to a new Cold War era?

Tehran on U.S.-PRC Differences, 'New Cold War'

NC2908064593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Following the U.S. decision on the economic sanctions against the PRC, Beijing has announced that it will review its commitment to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Even though the PRC Government is not a signatory to this treaty, it considers itself ethically bound to abide by it.

The U.S. action and the PRC response to it have not only strained relations between the two countries, the international system is also threatened. An interesting point is that whatever led to this crisis has not been clearly confirmed or denied.

The United States has accused the PRC of the sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan. The PRC has denied these allegations and believes that the missiles sold to Pakistan do not fall within the framework of the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. Ostensibly, Beijing's stance is closer to the truth as the missiles sold to Pakistan have a range of 300 km. The MTCR stipulates that the missiles should have a range of more than 500 km. In addition, U.S. intelligence organizations have conceded that they do not have precise information in this regard.

Political experts are concerned that with the exit of the PRC from the pale of the NPT, the international system will be threatened in practice. In such circumstances, the United States will be the cause of all such disarray in the international system. Some months ago, the United States—in a thoughtless move—forced North Korea to break away from this treaty.

The crisis in Beijing-Washington relations has emerged at a time when the two countries were striving to remove the factors causing tension in their relations from their path. Following the Tiananmen Square incident, the embargo on the PRC and Washington's protest of the PRC's sale of arms to Third World countries, human rights issues, and problems in the commercial field marred relations. High-level talks and exchanges were held between officials of the two countries and the course of events seemed to indicate an improvement in relations.

However, the present situation in U.S.-PRC relations has belied all previous impressions. This situation cropped up with the issue of the inspection of the Chinese vessel, Yinhe, and subsequently with the matter of the sale of the M-11 to Pakistan.

The policy of an embargo on the PRC is one of the fundamental theories [preceding word in English] in the Democrats' doctrine. The Democrats believe that they can motivate the PRC Government to become more flexible by means of economic sanctions, even though past experience has proven that regardless of how stringent they may be, economic sanctions cannot make the PRC leaders succumb to the demands of foreign powers.

It is interesting to note that the United States has imposed an embargo on the PRC without taking into account a series of fundamental issues. First, according to political experts, the United States will stand to lose far more from sanctions on the PRC. This is because the PRC can obtain its technological needs from British and French companies. The experience of the G-7 summit in Tokyo proved that these countries will not emulate the spiteful policies of the United States.

When the United States announced its embargo of the PRC, Japan, which is a Western ally, declared that it is seeking closer ties with Beijing. In addition, developing countries prefer to purchase their necessities from the PRC, thus the PRC can resolve its problems stemming from the U.S. refusal to purchase its goods.

In any case, by adopting a bullying policy the United States is increasing the number of countries that are disgusted with its new world order, which will, in practice, split the world into two poles: those in favor and those against the new world order. This will ultimately culminate in a new Cold War.

Joint Industrial Enterprise To Be Set Up With Turkmenistan

LD0109172193 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 1, IRNA—Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here today appreciated the Central Asian Republics' efforts to set their own political and social goals.

Ne'matzadeh, in his meeting with the visiting Turkmen minister of logistics and government resources [title as received], Nurmukhamed Khanamov, also announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Turkmenistan in trade and transit exchange of goods.

The Turkmen official in return called for establishment of a joint economic organization. He declared Turkmenistan's readiness to accept investment by Iranian industrialists.

Amu'ove is here at the invitation of Iran's Pars group of industries to establish a joint industrial enterprise.

Bridge Linking Iran to Turkmenistan Becomes Operational

LD0209221693 Tehran IRNA in English 1942 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Sep 2, IRNA—A road bridge across River Tajan which forms part of the Iran-Turkmenistan border in Sarakhs, 120 kms north-east of here, was inaugurated today following completion of construction work.

The 135 meter long, 5.5 meter wide bridge with three 45 meter wide spans was built at a cost of rls 400 million and took seven months to complete.

The city of Sarakhs straddles the two countries' border and forms a vital link with the Central Asian road and railway network.

Work on a railway track linking mashhad to sarakhs and thence to the Turkmen city of Tajan further north is also in progress.

The opening of the bridge facilitates the flow of commodities from the Central Asian republics to the international market via the Persian Gulf.

Kuwait Sends Relief for Iraqi Refugees in Iran

LD2808105593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] After the fleeing of thousands of Iraqi Muslims—who have been driven from Iraq's southern marshlands towards Iranian border areas—the Kuwaiti Government has handed to the Iranian Red Crescent a ship carrying 20 containers holding foodstuffs, medicine, and blankets for the refugees.

The Kuwaiti envoy, Mr. Mubarak Faysal al-Sabah, who is in Iran at the head of a delegation, visited the settlement area of the Iraqi refugees and met the head of our country's Red Crescent Society.

During the meeting issues related to cooperations between Iran and Kuwait for giving assistance to Iraqi refugees. The head of our country's Red Crescent, thanking the Kuwaiti Government for sending the relief for the Iraqi refugees, stressed the need for the continuation of such assistance.

Interior Minister Besharati on New Security Measures

LD3008182293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] On the last day of Government Week, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Interior Minister Besharati described the performance of the Interior Ministry.

Saying that establishing security and political stability in the country was the main wish of the people, he expressed the hope that, in future, the people of our country would not witness any social outrage, unrest, or any factors resulting in disturbing public order.

About maintaining security in the country, Mr. Besharati said: With the help of the Armed Forces we shall act to tighten the borders, and seriously confront aggressors and those who violate our territory with narcotics and other matters which do not conform to the Islamic revolution culture.

We shall coordinate with the judiciary to follow up the dossiers of criminals and merchants of death. We shall coordinate with the Majles to prepare a law to fight those crimes, because establishing security is the clear and decisive instruction of our honorable president.

We shall systematically act regarding any crimes that destroy the foundation of the people's faith. We shall issue instructions and punish those who bribe, as we punish those who take bribes. We also seriously intend to act to safeguard public dignity. To consider the country's security is to consider the security of every individual.

We have arranged in-service and independent training for them. We shall place the necessary equipment and tools at their disposal. We shall provide factors which would calm them down and remove economic difficulties.

Our expectation—which is in fact the expectation of our people—is that they should, themselves, maintain order, improve public relations, and respect the people's culture, because the law enforcement forces are the point of contact between the people and the government. To act contrary to security and law will be accepted from no one. We shall deal seriously with those who do not respect the law.

Rafsanjani Urges Facilitating Return of Iranians Home

LD2808103993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer] The second stage of the seminar held for the heads of the diplomatic representative offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad began its deliberation in Mashhad with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Unidentified correspondent] In part of his message, the president said that efforts to identify and expand common viewpoints and common interests among the Islamic countries in particular and the Third World countries in general were among essential elements of Iran's foreign policy. These were needed to bring about the correct environment for constructive participation in international affairs in the existing transitional period, which must be followed up seriously. [passage omitted]

In his message Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that support to and protection of Iranians in any part of the world was among the duties and programs of the government as well as the diplomatic representative offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As such he said that recent positive measures adopted to remove the difficulties of Iranians living abroad should continue more seriously and that more generous facilities must be provided for the return of Iranians living abroad or their visit to Iran. [passage omitted]

Selection of Cabinet Ministers Viewed

NC3008114693 Tehran SALAM in Persian 21 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Analysis of Deputies' Votes"]

[Text] In an earlier report, we mentioned that the nonorganizational structure of our policy in the Majles and in

the country saw the deputies tending to focus more on ministers' weak points rather than the strengths and positive points. They view the new faces more favorably than the old ones. This, despite the new ones not being any stronger. It could be said they are even weaker.

The votes cast by Majles deputies indicate that on average, each new minister received at least 200 votes in his favor. The average number of positive votes for 17 of the ministers in the previous Cabinet was 191. Six of the new ministers received 223 votes. So, the deputies gave an average of 23 more votes to the new ministers than to the more familiar old faces.

It can be conjectured that among the new ministers, some may be more efficient than some of the old individuals, but this is mere probability. Naturally, the less experienced (who have displayed no signs of their weakness) should enter the arena.

Another problem we propounded earlier was that the Majles members may oppose a minister who is not from their line or faction. We stated that this was also the right of the Majles. But, the Majles cannot normally have a minister it favors accepted unless the president accepts him. It can only have the minister removed from office.

Ultimately, even if the president is not in tune with the Majles, perhaps he doesn't wish to utilize the services of the strong or perhaps he wants to choose and introduce weaker or mediocre individuals. This was the problem in the recent selection of ministers.

Students Participate in Physics Contest in Tehran

LD2908110393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] With the approval of the International Forum for the Physics Olympiad, the Iranian student team participated in the academic physics contest in Tehran yesterday.

The International Physics Olympiad was held in America earlier. That country's government, with its obstructionism, prevented the Iranian students from taking part in the contest.

The Education Ministry announced: The holding of the international physics contest in Tehran with the participation of Iranian students was agreed after the Islamic Republic of Iran protested to the International Physics Olympiad Forum. The forum, deploring the American action in not granting visas to the Iranian students, unanimously agreed to put the physics theory questions at the disposal of Iranian authorities so that the contest could be held in Tehran according to the usual international tradition.

The Iranian students' results in the physics contest will be compared with the results from other states. If the Iranian students attain the required points they will be presented with the special International Physics Olympiad trophies.

'Critical Position' of Petroleum Ministry Observed

NC2808191393 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Strategic Role of the Petroleum Industry"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet—with the exception of the minister of the economic affairs and finance—received votes of confidence from the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Monday [20 August], and formally began its political and economic activities.

The tenure of the new cabinet starts at highly critical juncture in the Iranian history. The 2nd and 5-year Plan, which follows the 1st 5-Year Plan in the general outline envisaged for the economic growth, is of special significance for the future of the country, and in fact the 2nd 5-Year Plan may be considered a turning point in the history of the country.

The Ministry of Petroleum, which is in charge of administering the most important source of foreign exchange in the country as well as the most significant energy source for local consumption, is in a especially critical position.

The success or failure of this specific ministry in making optimum use of the country's oil reserves will have an important bearing on the country's specific economic structure which is heavily dependent on oil revenues.

The acquisition of foreign exchange through the successful sale of oil at international markets will have a strong impact on the implementation of the development programs, and consequently it is necessary for the people in charge of the Petroleum Ministry to use maximum care and discretion in the formulation of their policies and programs. In other words, the success or failure of the Petroleum Ministry will have a direct effect on the speed with which the programs of the economic growth are implemented.

The Minister of Petroleum, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i has announced that during his new tenure he will be giving especial priority to such projects as making use of the natural gas as the main source of fuel, taking maximum advantage of the natural gas through the creation of refineries and petrochemical plants, adopting appropriate policies at OPEC in coordination with other members for the purpose of preventing unnecessary fluctuations in oil prices at international markets.

All of this are naturally very laudable intentions, and the implementation of the above projects will utimately insure the optimum use of oil and gas resources in carrying out the development projects. However, two points deserve special attention if we are to find realistic approaches for the attainment of the above objectives.

1. To insure the relative stability of the oil price and the acquisition of the maximum amount of foreign exchange, we need to have a strong presence at the OPEC.

2. In view of the great amount of investment involved in the development of the petrochemical industries, and the great variety of petrochemical products, it is important that we focus our attention on export possibilities, and do not limit our efforts to replacing the imported items. We should realize that having a strong foothold in the international markets for petrochemical products is of great importance for the long-term success of our economic programs.

It is to be admitted that the implementation of the recent petrochemical projects with the local manpower and knowhow has been very successful, and this engenders the confidence that we could achieve further developments in this industry.

Officials View Capabilities, Costs of 7th Refinery

LD0209110193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpt] In the inaugural ceremony marking the operation of the country seventh oil refinery in Arak, Oil Minister Mr. [Gholam Reza] Aqazadeh-Kho'i, along with the manager of that refinery, presented reports briefing the president on the various stages of the project. My colleague in Arak has sent us a report:

[correspondent] In the inaugural ceremony in Arak, Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced: The seventh oil refinery is able to receive about 150,000 barrels of crude oil per day from the Khuzestan oilfields and is capable of producing 20 million liters of various products, according to demand. These products include: 4,700 barrels of liquid gas; 26,000 barrels lead-free petrol; 105,000 barrels of paraffin, gasoline and kerosene; 5,000 barrels of tar; and 60 tonnes of sulphur, as well as jet fuel, solvents and lubricants.

Our country's oil minister added: The country's seventh refinery in Arak is built on 6 square km of land and is adjacent to Iran's 10th petrochemical complex. Moreover, the refinery is capable of producing 15,400 barrels of light oil and [word indistinct] per day to meet the needs of the petrochemical complex.

He further said: The refinery is the first in the country that can produce high-grade lead-free petrol. It also utilizes the closed-circuit production method, which not only enhances precision and speed in product processing, but also plays an important role in reducing wastes.

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i clarified: The petroleum products processed in the first phase of the seventh oil refinery will generate a production value of $1 billion. In about five years time, the investments made in this great complex will start to return a profit to the country's money supply.

The manager of the seventh refinery also made some remarks in the course of the inaugural ceremonies in Arak. He said: The refinery has 13 production units. So far, with about 31 million hours work, the premises and buildings have been constructed, and 2,080 types of machines and tools, as well as internal pipes, which weigh a total of 65,000 tonnes, have been installed. Furthermore, a total of 71 oil reserve tanks with capacity of 7 million barrels have been built. A total sum of $1.1 billion in foreign currency credits and 22 billion rials, in rial credits, has been spent on this refinery.

He added: The country's seventh oil refinery in Arak will be completed in two stages. The second phase also will have the capacity to receive 150,000 barrels of crude oil per day. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Qureshi Favors Minister Status for Opposition Leader

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[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, had a meeting with the editors of the national dailies in Islamabad. Beside responding to various questions put by the editors, the prime minister explained the economic situation of the country. He also spelled out the urgency of the steps he had taken in the wake of economic package.

Addressing the newspapers' editors in Islamabad today, the prime minister announced that the leader of the opposition in the parliament would be given the status of a federal minister. In order of protocol he would be next to the prime minister.

[Begin Qureshi recording] One of the things that I am doing is that the leader of the opposition in the assembly will have all the perquisites of a federal minister and will rank in status only next to the prime minister. I am doing this because I believe very strongly that opposition in any democracy must be seen as a very important part of the democratic process. I see a tendency amongst our political parties to think and to feel somehow that the only thing that is important is to gain power and be in the government. We must recognize that the opposition has a very important role to play in making sure that the government is always in a situation where it is never unchallenged and it is for that reason that I feel that we must give a status—a formal status—to the opposition so that people recognize that yes, the opposition has a role, and even if they do not win the elections, that they will remain in the opposition, and they have a very constructive national role to play in building up the democratic structure. [end recording]

Qureshi on Economic Steps, Holding Elections on Time

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[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said that his economic package is dictated by poor state of economy and economic measures have been taken in the

best national interests. He said there are no conditions by the World Bank or the IMF behind the economic prescription and it is our own decision. Speaking in the Senate today, the prime minister said his economic measures were necessary in the face of prevailing economic situation and putting the country on the right track. The prime minister gave a detailed resume of the country's economic situation after assuming power:

[Begin Qureshi recording] I recognized that this country was facing the most serious financial crisis that it had faced, in my view, in its entire 40-plus years. This country's economy was ready for a total financial collapse. You talk about the increase in the prices of petroleum and wheat. We were faced with a situation where there would have been a total stop of any imports of petroleum and wheat because there was absolutely no money to finance the imports. I faced with situation when there were not only no reserves, so very few reserves, but there were reserves only in name. The short-term debt of this country was so large that there was no earthly way that we could meet our liabilities over the next six months. We would have been declared a bankrupt and insolvent country. We had a limited number of options and we decided to exploit all of them. What we have done, rightly or wrongly, has been done because we felt that it was in the national interest to do that; because we felt that that without that the very economic and political integrity of our nation would be in danger. Let me tell you. It is too early. It is only five to six weeks, five weeks in fact, since have taken these measures, but the results already are very promising. In five weeks' time, our reserves are two-and-a-half times what they were when we took over. I can say it with all the confidence that in another five weeks, when this government will have finished its mandate, we will leave a legacy to our next elected government where there will be no crisis. We will not have solved all the problems of this country, nor can we presume to do that. But we will leave a legacy that will not cause them fear. We will leave a legacy in which this country will be economically seen as viable and strong. We will leave a legacy in which no one will consider that we are independent on the outside world, and we will leave a legacy of dignity and of honor in meeting our debt obligations to the rest of the world. [end recording].

The prime minister said that holding of elections on appointed date is the foremost priority on the agenda. He said after elections he will not stay a day, an hour and even a minute more than necessary.

The prime minister also announced to release the frozen Tamir-i-Watan [National Construction Program] funds for the senators for the year 1992-93. A uniform amount of 14 million rupees will be provided to each senator for the development schemes.